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Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 13 Jun

NC2306062395

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 13 June edition of the Arabic-language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Writer Questions Saudi Morality, Threats, Attitude to Shari'ah
2. District Said Scene of Feud Between Islamic Group and Informants
3. Muslim Brotherhood Figure on Elections, Press Law
4. Muslim Brotherhood Columnist Criticizes Amendments
5. Israel's Islamic Movement's Position on Elections Commended

WRITER QUESTIONS SAUDI MORALITY, THREATS, ATTITUDE TO SHARI'AH

A 1,200-word article by al-Sayyid al-Ghadban on page 12 discusses the recent angry exchanges between Egyptian and Saudi newspapers over the affair of the Egyptian expatriate physician who was publicly flogged in Saudi Arabia when he accused a Saudi school principal of raping his young son. Al-Ghadban, writing under the headline "Is Saudi Arabia 'the Sole Representative' of Islamic Shari'ah?", criticizes the official Saudi statement responding to the Egyptian media debate on the incident. He blames the Saudis for criticizing the Egyptian Doctors Association, the Egyptian Human Rights Organization, and the Egyptian press corps for defending the Egyptian doctor.

He objects to a Saudi remark that the Egyptian Doctors Association placed its loyalty on one of its members, above moral considerations, and says:

"The issue that aroused the Doctors Association and the entire Egyptian public was connected with moral considerations. The moral angle was what provoked the Egyptians the most, particularly the Doctors Association because one of its members was the victim of an assault that was contrary to the sound moral values recognized by the Egyptian people. If morality is relative and there are moral values in a certain society that do not proscribe sexual deviancy, it does not follow that the Egyptian people should accept those values."

He adds:

"When the Egyptian Doctors Association banded together in anger, it was defending sound morality, not merely taking the side of a colleague." Al-Ghadban blames the Saudi statement's implicit threats to the Egyptian press and wonders what weapons the Saudis can use against Egyptian newspapers.

He voices astonishment at the Saudi declaration that anyone criticizing Saudi actions in connection with the incident is assaulting "the rules of Islamic shari'ah" and asks:

"Does everyone who simply criticizes the Saudi regime become, just like that, inimical to Islamic shari'ah? Has Saudi Arabia nationalized Islamic shari'ah? Must Muslims only interpret Islamic shar'iah from the Saudi perspective?"

Al-Ghadban concludes his article by declaring:

"Much remains to be said about how Islamic shari'ah is implemented in Saudi Arabia. Many more articles are needed to debate this issue and the issue of the holy shrines in the Arabian Peninsula."

DISTRICT SAID SCENE OF FEUD BETWEEN ISLAMIC GROUP AND INFORMANTS

The violence in al-Minya Governorate's Mallawi District remains a frequent topic in AL-SHA'B. A report by Ahmad Mahjub on page 8 says that the number of violent deaths in Mallawi and the nearby Abu-Qurqas district averaged two a day between 29 May and 8 June. The 700-word report refers to assassinations of suspected police informants by the Islamic Group and subsequent acts of revenge against the Islamic Group by the families of the assassinated individuals.

Referring to the fatal shooting of 10 people by three gunmen in the village of Tandah on 3 June, the report says:

"There are signals that the death of these citizens is part of a feud that started in November 1994 when Islamic Group members shot and killed Farraj Taha 'Ali Marzuq, an attendant at the village's al-Zawiyah Mosque. It suspected that he was an informant for the security services. The mosque attendant's family retaliated by killing the father of Ahmad 'Ali 'Abid, an Islamic Group leader. It is believed that the latest incident [the shooting of 10 people] was one of revenge by the Islamic Group for the killing of its leader's father."

The report gives a rundown of other Islamic Group assassinations of suspected informants, including the 29 May killings of 'Abd-al-Majid 'Abd-al-Hafiz, a school principal, and Iliya Mitri Najib, a school cafeteria attendant. The assassination of a physician, Safwat Zakhir Fama, took place in his clinic also on 29 May.

The report says that Mallawi citizens are confused and can no longer distinguish between armed plainclothes security personnel and Islamic Group members.

MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD FIGURE ON ELECTIONS, PRESS LAW

Muhammad al-Ma'mun al-Hudaybi, Muslim Brotherhood spokesman and now also a deputy general guide [Ahmad al-Malat, one of two Muslim Brotherhood deputy general guides, died recently], discusses the recent law governing journalistic conduct in a 2,000-word article on page 5. He regrets that Law 93/1995 has "cruelly and violently assassinated the remnants of Egyptian democracy" and declares that the People's Assembly, which passed the law, is controlled by the executive branch.

Al-Hudaybi calls for honest elections. He also calls to amend the Political Parties Law to allow more freedom in establishing political parties and for the repeal of the Emergency Law. Noting that recent Consultative Council elections produced a sweeping victory for the ruling National Democratic Party [NDP], he wonders if this is the country's only party that can win any seats and hints that the NDP has no grassroots following: "The NDP, where is it? Can anyone find it?"

Citing the example of the second Caliph 'Umar Bin-al-Khattab, who was strict in matters of righteousness but accepted criticism by his followers, al-Hudaybi says public suspicion about corruption in high places can only be remedied by more openness among the authorities.

MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD COLUMNIST CRITICIZES AMENDMENTS

Muslim Brotherhood columnist Muhammad 'Abd-al-Quddus criticizes the new amendments to the Penal Code that allow harsher penalties for publication offenses. In a 600-word article on page 12 under the headline "The Sons' Protection Law," he makes the following points:

Former president Anwar al-Sadat's repeal of the Constitutional article that limited a president to two terms benefited Husni Mubarak. As a result, instead of getting a new president who would govern better, Egypt's government under Mubarak's third term is getting progressively worse.

The "Press Assassination Law" was badly timed because it coincided with a growing public debate on high-level corruption and nepotism. He notes that ordinary citizens refer to the new law as "the sons' protection law."

'Abd-al-Quddus disputes the president's statement that he passed the new law in response to the opposition press' excesses. He says the president himself declares that he "does not waste his time" reading the opposition press.

He ridicules the government's assertion that European countries place similar restrictions on the press and criticizes the immunity from prosecution—except when special procedures are followed—enjoyed by members of the executive and legislative branches of government, but not by journalists.

However, he notes one benefit: The new law has brought pro-government and opposition journalists together.

He says: "I conclude my article by reminding everyone who took part in this crime of the Koranic verse: Thinketh he, that none hath power over him?"

ISRAEL'S ISLAMIC MOVEMENT'S POSITION ON ELECTIONS COMMENDED

A 2,500-word article by Mahjub 'Umar on page 12 entitled "The Islamic Movement and the Next Knesset Election," welcomes the recent decision by Israel's Islamic movement to allow its members to vote for Arab-candidate tickets in the 1996 Knesset elections although it will not field candidates of its own. Noting the role played by the Knesset's five Arab deputies in forcing Rabin's government to freeze its decision to expropriate Arab land in Jerusalem, the writer says that the Islamic movement's decision will enhance Arab influence in Israel and encourage unity among the various Arab groups inside Israel.

He says the Islamic movement's decision, adopted by a two-thirds majority of its members, will permit "positive participation in the Israeli establishment's political processes" and allow the Arabs to promote their causes inside Israel.

Palestinian Affairs

Israeli Border Guards Storm Orient House

JN2406115995 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1100 GMT 24 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli Border Guards stormed Orient House in occupied Jerusalem at noon today. The Israeli occupation troops attacked demonstrators who had sought refuge in Orient House. Fifteen citizens were wounded. Among those wounded were Voice of Palestine correspondent Muhammad 'Abd-Rabbuh and photographers 'Ata 'Uwaysat and Khalid al-Sa'w. The Orient House sources deemed this move highly serious.

The city of Nabulus has seen violent clashes between occupation troops and citizens. Several women and girls fainted. Meanwhile, several youths were arrested.

In Hebron, several members of the Peace Now Movement and the Israeli Solidarity Committee took part in a massive rally in a show of solidarity with prisoners.

In Janin, the occupation troops prevented a delegation of the Peace Now Movement headed by Knesset member Ya'el Dayan from entering the city. The delegation wanted to take part in activities in Janin in a show of solidarity with prisoners.

Orient House Denounces Operation

JN2406194295 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1730 GMT 24 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Orient House in Jerusalem has issued a statement denouncing the Israeli occupation forces' storming of its its premises and attacking children, women, and journalists who sought protection in it from the cruelty and violence of the Israeli forces of occupation which opened fire on them. Several were wounded and were rushed to al-Maqasid hospital.

Orient House called on world countries, human rights organizations, and international bodies to immediately intervene to save the lives of the detainees and have them released.

Al-Husayni on Olmert Remarks on Orient House

JN2506195595 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Commenting on remarks by Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert regarding a proposal to close down Orient House in Jerusalem, Faysal al-Husayni said that these remarks cannot promote the peace process between the Palestinian and Israeli people. He reiterated that Orient House is a political and moral symbol to the Palestinians.

In a statement to our correspondent Kayid Zahir on the statements made by Minister Moshe Shahal this morning that Israel will not release Palestinians who have Israeli blood on their hands, al-Husayni said that these statements are deeply flawed. He added that the two peoples are now in a state of peace. Consequently, all detainees without discrimination must be released.

[Begin al-Husayni recording] The Likud's position toward Orient House is widely known. It is trying to drag the Israeli Government to a position that will further weaken and destroy the political peace process. It is our hope that Israeli officials will demonstrate further wisdom. They should not identify with this approach, which is championed by the Likud in the person of Mr. Olmert. [end recording]

'Arafat on Peace Talks, Detainees, Ties

NC2506072895 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 25 Jun 95

[Telephone interview with Yasir 'Arafat, in Gaza, by Ramadan Husayn, in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Husayn] Mr. President, what is the progress of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on redeployment and on holding elections to the Palestinian self-rule council? The date set for reaching an agreement on these issues, 1 July, is just a few days away.

['Arafat] Before I answer, please give me the chance to salute by brother, through Voice of the Arabs, the struggling president Muhammad Husni Mubarak and thank him for his efforts with his Palestinian and Arab brothers, to unite them and support the Palestinian issue at all gatherings.

[Husayn] Thank you Mr. President. Let us go back to the developments in negotiations on redeployment and elections. What progress has been made because of these negotiations?

['Arafat] Regrettably, the gap between us and the Israelis is still wide. This should be clear to all Arab brothers everywhere. There is Israeli reluctance and procrastination in implementing what we signed in Washington and Cairo, especially where redeployment, holding elections, and handing over powers are concerned. Without exception, all this should have been carried out in July 1994. We are now in July 1995, a full year has passed, and there is still deliberate obstruction by the Israeli Government. We agreed on numerous dates but, regrettably, none have been met.

[Husayn] Mr. President, it has been announced that you will meet with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. Are you optimistic that this meeting will produce meaningful results?

['Arafat] Before we meet, it is important that the committees agree on basic issues. This way, there won't be problems during the meeting that would prevent results from being produced.

[Husayn] Palestinian detainees and prisoners represent one of the important issues. Israel was supposed to have freed them under the Declaration of Principles and we have heard that a general strike was observed in the Palestinian self-rule areas. Mr. President, what do you say to these detainees and prisoners?

['Arafat] To show solidarity, I participated in fasting with my brothers, loved ones, and comrades; with the detainees and the strugglers, be they male or female. We regard them as great symbols of struggle. We can only assure them that their issue is a fundamental part of the talks with the Israelis. There can be no comprehensive or complete solution without solving their issue. This should be understood by everyone.

Many of them should have been released several month ago and about 2,500 detainees were supposed to be released in the first group. Regrettably, instead of being freed, the number of detainees has increased. This is one of the sad, painful points we are facing from the Israelis in the accords we both signed.

[Husayn] Mr. President, Palestinian relations with the Arabs are a priority on the Palestinian side's agenda. How do you see present Palestinian relations with Egypt, Jordan, and all Arab countries?

['Arafat] First of all, thank God, our relations with all our Arab brothers are good. We are seeking to strengthen them because we cannot separate from the heart and conscience of our Arab nation, otherwise our cause will not be destined to succeed. We are an inseparable part of this Arab nation. We are an effective force in it, a force that interacts with all events, pains, and hopes of our Arab nation. Without this, no Arab cause will be destined for any progress at all. The Arab cause is the same, even though its forms and strengths differ.

[Husayn] Mr. President, the Israeli settlements pose a serious threat to the peace process. Also, the Israeli settlements around Jerusalem will affect future negotiations on this issue, which is important to the Arab and Islamic worlds, not just to the Palestinians. In your opinion, what will be the future effect of this Israeli policy on the peace process?

['Arafat] The Arabs adopted a clear and strong position when the issue of Arab land confiscation near Jerusalem came up. The Arabs adopted a unanimous opinion on this issue, which was an important development. It had been a long time since the Arab League endorsed a unanimous political resolution, as it did recently on the issue of land expropriation around Jerusalem. Then, we called on the UN Security Council to debate the issue. The [U.S.] veto against 14 votes means that the whole world stands by us on this issue and against the U.S. veto. For the first time, the U.S. veto was a weak one. I want to say that our Arab nation, Islamic nation, and all honest Christians in the world have a duty to safeguard Jerusalem and its Holy Mosque. Jerusalem is the site from where the Prophet Muhammad ascended to heaven and is the cradle of Christ, may God's peace be upon Him. This is the duty of all of us and not of the Palestinians alone.

[Husayn] Regarding relations between the Palestinian Authority and the opposition, what point has the dialogue reached between the two parties to preserve national interests?

['Arafat] I want to tell you something. We are a democratic movement and we fully understand the opposite opinion. At the same time, our Constitution, which we unanimously agreed upon at the Palestine National Council meeting in Algiers in 1988, says the majority should respect the views of the minority and the minority should follow the views of the majority. We respect all views as well as opposite ones, but, at the same time, we must observe the laws and regulations that must be respected by all. Nonetheless, we have spared no effort to unify the Palestinian ranks, be they supporters or opponents. What counts is a Palestinian position to cope with the events and developments confronting our Arab nation and its main cause — the Palestinian cause.

[Husayn] You will lead the Palestinian delegation to the upcoming African summit. You have decided to participate in this summit. What will you say to the African summit?

['Arafat] First, I would like to thank my African brothers — leaders, governments, and people — for their fraternal and conscientious position on the Palestinian cause. All the Africans — people, governments, leaders, and heads of state — consider the Palestinian issue to be their own. I am thankful and grateful for all that they have done and are doing and for their support to the Palestinian cause on all levels.

[Husayn] Brothers, at the end of this dialogue, the Voice of the Arabs thanks President Yasir 'Arafat for giving us the opportunity to interview him. Thank you.

['Arafat] God willing, we will pray in Jerusalem soon.

[Husayn] God willing, sir.

Spokesman Previews Agenda for 'Arafat-Peres Meeting

JN2506083195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0700 GMT 25 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat will meet with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres this afternoon to discuss the results of the Palestinian-Israeli talks.

Marwan Kanafani, President Yasir 'Arafat's adviser and spokesman, will tell us more about this meeting:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Marwan Kanafani, President Yasir 'Arafat's adviser and spokesman, good morning.

[Kanafani] Good morning.

[Correspondent] President Yasir 'Arafat is scheduled to meet today with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. What will be discussed during this meeting?

[Kanafani] The meeting was decided upon yesterday at Mr. Peres' request to come and meet with the president. They will meet for lunch at approximately 1300 today [1000 GMT]. Of course, they will discuss the elections and raising the level of the talks so as to bypass the impasse and problem facing the talks.

[Correspondent] Will they discuss the issue of prisoners and detainees?

[Kanafani] The agenda is open. The president will of course raise this topic because it is always on the president's mind. The president does not agree to keeping Palestinians, particularly the heroic detainees, in jails and preventing them from exercising their freedom. In addition to this, they will discuss the issue of the talks and ways to bypass the impasse we have reached.

[Correspondent] Thank you, Mr. Marwan Kanafani, President Yasir 'Arafat's adviser and spokesman.

[Kanafani] You are welcome. [end recording]

Abu-Rudaynah Interviewed on 'Arafat-Peres Talks

JN2506144695 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 25 Jun 95

[Telephone interview with Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, Yasir 'Arafat's adviser, by Ibrahim Milhim, on 25 June; place not given—live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Milhim] Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, President Yasir 'Arafat's adviser, good afternoon.

[Abu-Rudaynah] Good afternoon.

[Milhim] What is the outcome of President 'Arafat's meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres?

[Abu-Rudaynah] I can tell you that they have discussed redeployment and the transfer of powers. All aspects of these issues were presented by the Palestinian side. The two sides agreed to continue, intensify, and expedite the talks in an effort to settle differences and disparity in viewpoints over these issues. The objective of this was to abide by the set date; namely, the 1st of July. The Palestinian side stressed the need to reach an agreement which guarantees the West Bank's territorial integrity and full jurisdiction over it, withdrawal from all populated areas, and the Palestinian Authority's assumption of its full responsibilities in this regard to pave the way for the holding of general elections.

President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] strongly put forward the issue of detainees, particularly following their heroic strike which has entered its second week, and stressed the need to show respect for the agreements which guarantee their release without discrimination. The two sides agreed to resume contacts and meetings of the negotiations committees to follow up these issues, including the detainees committee. This was the Palestinian position which was explained by President Abu-'Ammar. We cannot say that all problems have been resolved, for the gap is still there and problems still exist. However, the two sides agreed to expedite and continue the negotiations until the 1st of July. President Abu-'Ammar reiterated that the Israeli side should respect agreements and release the detainees.

[Milhim] Has the Israeli foreign minister showed any commitment to the 1 July date?

[Abu-Rudaynah] The Israeli foreign minister has reiterated his government's desire to reach an agreement by 1 July. As I told you, the four committees are still meeting to resolve all problems. There are many problems which are still unresolved.

[Milhim] Nabil, violent confrontations took place in the city of Nabulus today, during which a martyr fell and tens of people were wounded. How do you view these incidents?

[Abu-Rudaynah] The Israeli measures do not serve the peace process. This is a challenge and provocation against the Palestinian people. A peaceful demonstration was staged in support of the heroic prisoners and detainees. As you know, President Abu-'Ammar explained to the Israeli foreign minister that the detainees issue is a sacred one which should be given priority. He also stressed the need to respect the agreements which guarantee their release. What the Israelis did today does not serve the peace process, but creates obstacles to the implementation of agreements.

[Milhim] Once again, regarding today's talks, can we say that viewpoints are closer together?

[Abu-Rudaynah] We cannot say that viewpoints are closer together. The two parties have a strong desire to expedite the negotiations to reach results by 1 July. However, as I have told you, many issues are still unresolved and the gap is still there. However, there are attempts to bridge this gap. Let us wait until 1 July and see.

[Milhim] Thank you Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, adviser to President Yasir 'Arafat.

[Abu-Rudaynah] Thank you Ibrahim.

Sha'th Warns Against Failure of Autonomy Talks

AU2406201095 Vienna DER STANDARD in German 24-25 Jun 95 p 2

[Interview with Planning Minister Nabil Sha'th by Erhard Stackl and Gerhard Plott in Vienna; date not given: "Hardly Any Chances of Increase in Autonomy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [DER STANDARD] Mr. Minister, you are saying that you do not expect the negotiations on increased autonomy to be successfully concluded on 1 July. What would the consequences be?

[Sha'th] My objective is a successful conclusion. However, considering the present stage of the talks, I do not see any possibility of success as long as the Israeli concept is not changed. Our logic has been: Give peace a chance. It took us a long time to induce our opposition to cease its violent acts against the Israelis. If nothing is achieved by 1 July, I am afraid that parts of the opposition might think that they have the right to return to violence.

[DER STANDARD] This might be understood as a concealed threat of new acts of violence.

[Sha'th] We do not threaten anyone. I always say, also to my own people, that we cannot afford to return to Intifadah and to violence. We are neither able nor willing to stop the process of negotiations. However, I am afraid that we might lose control.

[DER STANDARD] You have talked of cooperation between the extremists on both sides against the peace process. Is there proof of this?

[Sha'th] Yes. 'Arafat gave all the ambassadors in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv copies of the 1,500 identity cards, birth certificates, driving licenses, and other documents that were used by Hamas to get into Israel. The Israelis are claiming that they were stolen and I believe them. I am not accusing the Israeli Government, but some elements on the extreme right. They handed the documents over to our opposition to enable it to carry out operations that trigger reactions against the peace process in Israel.

[DER STANDARD] Because of the terrorist acts, the agreement to the peace process has decreased in Israel. Do you also see it like this?

[Sha'th] Partly. The question of political prisoners caused the explosion. The first case was the abduction of soldier Nachshom Waxman. He was kidnapped because he was needed to be exchanged for prisoners. Since the Israelis did not yield in this highly emotionalized topic, the Islamists started their operations. And then the spiral of violence and the sealing off of the Palestinian territories influenced the opinion in Israel very negatively.

[DER STANDARD] The Israeli Government is prepared to accept Hamas's participation in the forthcoming Palestinian elections.

[Sha'th] This is important. In addition to the stick, which is needed if Hamas kills people, one also needs a carrot — participation in the political process — if it stops.

[DER STANDARD] Do you register the comparative strength of forces in opinion polls?

[Sha'th] An institute of Nablus University carries out polls every month. According to these, the Islamists' popularity increased from July to November 1994, and then it decreased. At the zenith, they had 34 percent but now only 15 percent. In November we fell to 22 percent. Now about 57 percent again want 'Arafat.

[DER STANDARD] You are criticizing the international community because it has not kept its promises of help.

[Sha'th] The economic side is an important aspect of the peace process. If the people do not feel that things are improving, they lose confidence. Last year, our financial situation was very bad, this year it will be better. Austria has also promised to support us as soon as possible. For example, Austria will open a hospital in east Jerusalem next month. However, as for the rest, we have only seen little of the promised 300 million schillings.

Qaddumi on Arab Reconciliation, Israeli Acts

NC2406073495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2055 GMT 23 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Addis Ababa, 23 June (MENA)—In Addis Ababa today, Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, voiced the urgent need to hold a conference on Arab reconciliation to clear the Arab air before discussing any other Arab summit.

In statements on the sidelines of the African foreign ministers' conference, Qaddumi said pan-Arab security is an integrated security.

Replying to a question on Israel's attempt to evade the commitments stipulated in the agreements, he said Israel has been carrying out hostile actions, such as confiscating land, closing crossing points, pressuring the Palestinian Authority, and building more settlements.

He added that Israel also revoked the agreement and the pledge signed by Peres on Jerusalem and asked: So what is left of the Oslo Accord?

He said Israel is exploiting U.S. support and the balance-of-power disorder. Further, Israel thinks it can change the provisions of the Declaration of Principles.

He added: In each round of negotiations, Israel presents us with new agreements through which it seeks to nullify the political substance of the Declaration of Principles so it can render the Oslo Accord meaningless. The Oslo Accord means the establishment of fair, lasting peace in the Middle East or, in other words, the Palestinians should have a state, complete sovereignty over their land, have Jerusalem as their capital, and have the settlements removed.

Commenting on elections in the occupied territories, Qaddumi said: If the elections are free and democratic, this is what we are calling for. But if they are held under the occupation, they will not be elections, they will be worthless. Israel must first withdraw.

Replying to a question on the African response to the Palestinian issue, Qaddumi said the African countries support the Palestinian issue and agreed that the PLO can be an observer member of the OAU. However, he pointed out that it has been recently noticed that some of the African states have confused positions because of the Zionist-Jewish propaganda. This, he said, is caused by Israel's false propaganda, which will not last long; we will reveal Israel's methods.

Cabinet Meets, Voices Support for Prisoners

JN2406142595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 24 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In its weekly session today under President Yasir 'Arafat, the National Authority cabinet has voiced strong support for the Palestinian and Arab prisoners and detainees in the prisons of Israeli occupation, who have gone on an open political hunger strike since the beginning of last week.

The cabinet valued the activities carried out by the citizens in all Palestinian cities, villages, and camps in support of the prisoners and detainees. The cabinet held the Israeli Government fully responsible for the consequences of the strike of the prisoners, including the deterioration in their health conditions. The cabinet urged the United Nations, Amnesty International, human rights organizations, and world nations to work for the release of all prisoners and detainees in Israeli prisons.

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, secretary general of the Presidency, said the National Authority cabinet reviewed negotiations with Israel on the implementation of the second phase of the Declaration of Principles [DOP] agreement, represented by the redeployment of Israeli forces, setting up security arrangements, holding elections, transferring civilian powers, and settling some legal issues.

'Abd-al-Rahim added that the cabinet has expressed its full support for President 'Arafat's instructions to Palestinian negotiators within the framework of reaching a transitional agreement that is based on the DOP agreement.

'Adil al-Za'nun, our correspondent in Gaza, has more details on the meetings of the National Authority today:

[Begin al-Za'nun recording] Under President Yasir 'Arafat, the National Authority cabinet held its weekly session at the Presidential Headquarters in Gaza today. The cabinet concentrated on the issue of the Palestinian prisoners and detainees in the prisons of Israeli occupation. It also discussed the 1 July deadline on redeployment and the holding of legislative elections.

Following the meeting, Ahmad Quray', minister of trade, industry, and economy, said intensive efforts are under way to reach an agreement before 1 July. He added that if Israel does not settle the issue of the prisoners, then this will have serious consequences.

Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government, also said that messages will be sent to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, human rights organizations, and peace-loving nations asking them to work for the release of all prisoners without any restrictions or discrimination and to put pressure on Israel to make it comply with the agreements.

Dr. 'Urayqat pointed out that there is still a wide gap between the Palestinian and Israeli sides on redeployment and the holding of legislative elections. He added: We will not agree to have the 1 July deadline turn into a sword hanging over our heads. 'Urayqat said President 'Arafat will send messages to the cosponsors of the peace process and to Egypt, Norway, Jordan, nonaligned nations, and the Organization of African Unity, to take part in the international supervision of the forthcoming legislative elections.

Dr. 'Urayqat will leave tomorrow for Cairo for talks with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa to brief him on the latest developments in the negotiations and deliver a letter to the Egyptian president asking Egypt to take part in the international supervision of the elections. 'Urayqat will also visit Jordan for the same purpose.

For his part, Faysal al-Husayni, official in charge of the Jerusalem file, said storming Orient House is a provocative action that conflicts with all the principles of the peace process. [end recording]

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, secretary general of the Presidency, said: Although the gap is still wide between the Palestinian and Israeli stands toward redeployment and security arrangements, we will do our best to reach the desired agreement before 1 July. He added that President 'Arafat has given instructions to complete all preparations to assume the civilian and security powers on the designated deadline if the Israeli Government fulfils its commitments and obligations.

'Abd-al-Rahim added that President 'Arafat presented a report on the security situation in the National Authority areas in light of the assassination of martyr Mahmud al-Khawajah, pointing out that agents who are linked to some forces in Israel assassinated him and that President 'Arafat told Israeli officials, the U.S. Administration, and European states about this.

Further on Cabinet Session

JN2406194895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1730 GMT 24 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In its weekly session today under President Yasir 'Arafat, the National Authority cabinet voiced strong support for the Palestinian and Arab prisoners and detainees in the prisons of Israeli occupation, who have been on an open political hunger strike since the beginning of last week. The cabinet valued the activities carried out by the citizens in all Palestinian cities, villages, and camps in support of the prisoners and detainees.

The cabinet held the Israeli Government fully responsible for the consequences of the strike of the prisoners, including the deterioration in their health conditions. The cabinet urged the United Nations, Amnesty International, human rights organizations, and world nations to work for the release of all prisoners and detainees in Israeli prisons and stressed the importance of such a move to the peace process.

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, secretary general of the Presidency, said the National Authority cabinet reviewed negotiations with Israel on the implementation of the second phase of the Declaration of Principles [DOP] agreement, represented by the redeployment of Israeli forces, setting up security arrangements, holding elections, transferring civilian powers, and settling some legal issues.

'Abd-al-Rahim added that the cabinet has expressed its full support for President 'Arafat's instructions to Palestinian negotiators within the framework of reaching a transitional agreement that is based on the DOP agreement.

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim added that President 'Arafat and the ministers in charge of following up the implementation of the second phase of the DOP briefed the cabinet on the proposed mechanism and programs concerning the redeployment and the supplementary security arrangements

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim said: Although the gap is still wide between the Palestinian and Israeli stands toward redeployment and security arrangements, we will do our best to reach the desired agreement before 1 July. He added that President 'Arafat has given instructions to complete all preparations to assume the civilian and security powers on the designated deadline if the Israeli Government fulfills its commitments and obligations.

'Abd-al-Rahim also said that President 'Arafat presented a report on the security situation in the National Authority areas in light of the assassination of martyr Mahmud al-Khawajah, pointing out that agents who are linked to some forces in Israel assassinated him and that President 'Arafat told Israeli officials, the U.S. Administration, and European states about this.

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim added that there are attempts to exacerbate the situation through these assassinations and the reactions they draw so that Israel can find the excuse to avoid the requirements needed to arrive at an agreement on the transitional phase.

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim said President 'Arafat stressed that the opposition to the peace process on both the Palestinian and Israeli sides have orders to escalate the acts of violence before 1 July, the date agreed upon to reach agreement on the second phase of the DOP.

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim confirmed that President 'Arafat will lead the Palestinian delegation to the African summit which will open in Addis Ababa on Monday.

The cabinet also discussed a report presented by Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, head of the Palestinian delegation to the negotiations on elections, on an EU delegation's visit to the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Upon 'Arafat's instructions, Dr. 'Urayqat will leave for the Egyptian capital to brief Egyptian officials on the progress of negotiations with Israel and to discuss Egypt's participation in supervising the forthcoming legislative elections.

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim added that the cabinet also discussed a report by Jamil al-Tarifi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the negotiations on the transfer of powers, on the latest round of talks between Palestinian and Israeli negotiators. The report notes that this round produced some positive results. The cabinet decided to resume negotiations on the transfer of powers on Tuesday in Cairo.

The cabinet also ratified the agreement signed last week in the Jordanian capital between the Palestinian and Jordanian transport ministries on air transportation, civil aviation, and the protocol on land and sea transport of individuals and goods.

Committee for Solidarity With Detainees Formed

JN2306151095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1154 GMT 23 Jun 95

[Statement by the Unified National Committee for Solidarity With the Detainees on Strike, issued in Gaza on 23 June — read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] We appeal to the masses of our heroic Palestinian people; we appeal to all our sons, mothers, and sisters; we appeal to honest people everywhere: Your sons and sisters, the detainees, have gone on a hunger strike in the occupation prisoners. They are waging the most honorable and sacred battle in history for their freedom, dignity, and right. This battle is continuing through hunger, willpower, and empty stomachs that challenge the arrogance of the Zionist occupiers and executors. It is a battle of honor in which the detainees engage the occupation inside the prison castles.

In response to the appeal of those detainees, we announce the formation of the Unified National Committee for Solidarity With the Detainees on Strike [al-lajnah al-wataniyah al-muwahhadah lil tadamun ma' al-asra al-mudribin]. We call for the following:

1. Continuing sit-ins daily at the headquarters of the International Red Cross in all areas.

2. Declaring a state of constant alert throughout the strike period at all official and popular institutions, organizational committees, trade unions, women and student federations.

3. Appealing to all segments of our masses to abide by the program of activities issued by the Unified National Committee, especially since the detainess are now in real danger. Dozens have been taken to hospitals.

4. Forming solidarity committees in all regions to supervise the implementation of activities and carry out supportive solidarity activities.

5. Calling on lawyers to take protest measures in support of the cause of the detainees.

6. Calling on the Arab League, human rights organizations, and the United Nations to have the Security Council convene a special and emergency session to discuss the issue of Palestinian and Arab prisoners in Israeli jails.

The following is the program of activities in solidarity with the detainees:

-Monday, 26 June 1995, a day for escalation against the occupation and its settlers and burning of tires.

-Tuesday, 27 June 1994, a comprehensive strike in the West Bank and the National Authority areas. A news conference will be held in Jericho at the place of residence of the freed detaineess at 1000.

-Wednesday, 28 June 1995, a day of mourning in which black flags will be raised over homes, institutions, and roads. Also, solidarity slogans will be written.

-Thursday, 29 June 1995, closing the roads to the settlements in all the cities and villages of the West Bank and the National Authority.

-Friday, 30 June 1995, a day for prayer and assembly at the al- Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem and staging solidarity marches after the prayer.

-Saturday, 1 July 1995, marches to the prisons and detention centers in the West Bank cities. Marchers will set out from the headquarters of the Red Cross at 1000.

-Sunday, 2 July 1995, a day for escalation and resistance to the occupation forces throughout the occupied territory.

Freedom to the male and female prisoners. Long live the battle for freedom and dignity inside the occupation prisons.

[Signed] The Unified National Committee for Solidarity With the Detainees on Strike

Kanafani Denounces 'Unjustified' Israeli Violence

JN2406193995 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1730 gmt 24 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Marwan Kanafani, President 'Arafat's adviser and spokesman, has denounced the unjustified violence employed by the Israeli police and army against the civilian Palestinian demonstrators, who were expressing solidarity with Palestinian prisoners in the occupation jails, in various West Bank towns.

Kanafani said: These violent actions against the demonstrators, including women, children, and men, were seen by the entire world on the television screens. These acts present a genuine picture of the real problem facing the peace process; that the Israeli occupation troops are still unconvinced that the era of occupation, suppression, and tyranny has gone forever.

Kanafani said: No one should think that the Palestinian people will stop the struggle to gain their national rights. In order to continue, the peace process needs the same courage displayed by the leaders of the Palestinian and Israeli peoples in September 1993. The Israeli leaders must now prove that they have not lost or abandoned that courage.

Jihad's al-Shaqaqi on Revenge 'Even in Tel Aviv'

MM2306155195 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 23 Jun 95 p 5

[Report by Ibrahim Humaydi: "Al-Shaqaqi Tells AL-HAYAH: We Will Avenge al-Khawajah's Assassination"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus — Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Movement [IJM], has accused the Israeli intelligence service Mosad of the assassination of Mahmud al-Khawajah, a prominent leading IJM figure, yesterday. He threatened the Israelis with "immediate violent response anywhere including the 1948 territory [Israel proper] and the Gaza Strip."

In a statement to AL-HAYAH in Damascus, al-Shaqaqi expected that the "reprisal for al-Khawajah's assassination will be more violent than the mujahidin's reprisal for Mosad's assassination of Hani al-'Abid, one of the IJM leaders" last November. The IJM retaliated then with a suicide operation in Beit Lid near Tel Aviv killing 20 Israeli soldiers. He said: "Israel should expect retaliation anywhere including Palestinian territory, the Gaza Strip, and even Tel Aviv." He denied the existence of an agreement providing for a temporary cessation of military operations. He said: "We are proceeding with our jihad work and our preparations. Military operations may go up or down only for technical reasons and without there being a political decision to stop them."

Al-Shaqaqi held the Palestinian Authority [PA] responsible for the assassination of al-Khawajah "because it does not provide protection for the public, is lenient with agents, and has been infiltrated by Israeli intelligence." He revealed that "the Authority's organs were inquiring last week about the nature of al-Khawajah's work and activities in the IJM. The information gathered about him was passed on through Mosad agents within the Authority." He added that the Authority was "even more responsible than Israel for the assassination of the IJM's prominent leading figure because it does not provide protection for the public and is lenient with agents. Furthermore, those who assassinated Hani al-'Abid are in an ordinary prison if they have not already been let out but the mujahidin are treated harshly.... This method encourages the agents to commit any crime."

He denied any negotiations with the PA. He said: "The Israelis should understand that their agreements will not bring them peace and security. We are continuing our jihad and we will avenge al-Khawajah's murder."

Al-Qassam Battalions Vow To Avenge al-Khawajah Death

JN2306175995 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 23 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a statement following the assassination of martyr Mahmud al-Khawajah, the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Battalions said that the blood of martyrs and those who were martyred in recent days by the bullets of betrayal and treachery — by the weapons of the enemy soldiers and the [Palestinian] authority's men — will not be in vain.

The statement said: In light of this security chaos in Gaza, and the belligerency of Zionist intelligence through its agents in the strip, we want to stress that those who plan to undermine the prisoners' strike and impose humiliation on them and on our people will not wait for long before 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Battalions destroy them and put an end to their crimes.

The enemies' agents in Gaza Strip should prepare themselves for a black time that will return them to their holes. The honeymoons that were made available to them by Oslo agreements are over and will not come back.

The statement added: In face of these blatant practices by the Zionists and 'Arafat's authority, we will have clear positions of which the enemy and Musa 'Arafat [Palestinian security official] and his elements will hear about.

Booby-Trapped Wagon Explodes in Gaza; No Injuries

TA2506082195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 25 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A wagon filled with explosives blew up in the Neve Deqalim area in the Gaza Strip approximately half an hour ago. Nobody was hurt in the incident.

Our correspondent Nisim Qeynan reports that three soldiers who were in the area were sent to have their ears checked. The wagon exploded along the road leading to the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Gaza Division base in the area.

Officers rushed to the explosion site in order to launch an investigation. They are examining, among other things, how the wagon managed to arrive at the junction despite the fact that thorough checks are usually conducted of the area.

The area in which the explosion occurred has been sealed off.

Palestinian sources in Gaza say the Neve Deqalim attack was planned as revenge for the murder of Islamic Jihad activist Muhammad al-Khawajah last weekend.

Operation Said Response to al-Khawajah Murder

JN2506160295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1512 GMT 25 Jun 95

[Report by correspondent Hasan Abu-Zayid from the "With the Events" feature]

[FBIS Translated Text] A mule-pulled cart exploded in the village of Neve Deqalim in the Gush Qatif area in the Gaza Strip today as an Israeli military patrol passed by. The driver of the cart, a Bani Suhaylah resident, was killed in the explosion.

In the aftermath of this incident, the Israeli Defense Forces [IDF] sealed off the area and carried out combing operations in search of explosive charges. A Palestinian police team also arrived at the scene of the incident and began its investigations.

Palestinian sources have said that the cart driver was Mu'awiyah Ahmad Isma'il Rukah, a 22-year old resident of Bani Suhaylah, who was a member of either Hamas [the Islamic Resistance Movement] or the Islamic Jihad group. These sources added that today's operation was a reaction to the murder of Mahmud al-Khawajah, an Islamic Jihad member killed late last week.

Immediately after the incident, the IDF banned traffic on the Khan Yunus road, particularly on the parts used by Israeli military patrols.

Islamic Jihad Claims Responsibility

JN2506173595 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 25 Jun 95

[Statement by "an official source of the Islamic Jihad in Beirut"; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Jihad claims responsibility for the Gush Qatif operation in which a booby-trapped wagon exploded near a Zionist military patrol that was passing near the settlement.

The official source in Beirut added that details will be announced later, and said through this initial statement we want to emphasize to our masses and people that the jihad pledge announced by the movement when it mourned martyr al-Khawajah was carried out before the ink in which it was written dried out.

Security Arrests Hamas Leaders, Activists

TA2606062095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 26 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian security services arrested several dozen Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists in the Gaza Strip early this morning. Hamas sources told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that two Hamas leaders, Mahmud al-Zahhar and Shaykh Ahmad Bahr, were among those arrested. The detentions followed yesterday's attempted terrorist attack in which a booby-trapped wagon exploded at the Neve Deqalim junction in the Gaza Strip.

Arab-Israeli Talks

'Arafat, Peres Arrive in Gaza With 'Several Ideas'

Peres: Gaps 'Are Closing'

TA2506144195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 25 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said in Gaza after a three-hour meeting with Yasir 'Arafat that the gaps between Israel and the Palestinians are closing. Mr. Peres said he came to Gaza with several ideas on how to bridge the gaps and the Palestinians did the same. If everything goes well, we will meet the target date of 1 July.

'Arafat said after the meeting that he discussed with his guest the release of security prisoners and that he hopes they will be freed in stages. He protested the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] use of force against those demonstrating in solidarity with the security prisoners.

Peres: Jerusalemites To Vote in Elections

TA2506154495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 25 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said that in his meeting with 'Arafat agreements were reached on the main issues, but that there are still issues which require discussion. The meeting was positive and both sides are interested in meeting the 1 July target date, he said. The foreign minister said he agreed with 'Arafat that all the Palestinians in Jerusalem will be allowed to vote in the autonomy elections, but that there is still a dispute over the location of the ballot boxes. In response to a question by our correspondent Ya'el Ayalon on the release of prisoners, Mr. Peres said that 10 women would be freed soon. The ministerial committee on the issue will convene later in the week.

Peres Offers Partial IDF Pullout

TA2506174595 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 25 Jun 95

[Shlomi Eldar video report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] There is a significant change in Israel's position in the negotiations with the Palestinians. Israel suggested to 'Arafat to give up the second stage of the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] pull out from all population centers and to postpone it until next year. During this year, the sides will discuss the permanent arrangement in the territories. Political correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports that Mr. Peres today suggested to 'Arafat to make do at this stage with a limited IDF withdrawal and then to hold elections. 'Arafat did not respond to the proposal. The two met in Gaza today. Our correspondent Shlomi Eldar reports from Gaza:

[Begin Eldar recording] Peres came to Gaza from the cabinet meeting in Jerusalem where the prime minister reported to the ministers that the negotiations with the Palestinians were in a difficult spot. The Peres-'Arafat meeting did not conclude in a good atmosphere. The Palestinians want the agreement to be signed by 1 July to include an agreement on an overall withdrawal from the entire West Bank, while Israel is offering a partial IDF redeployment with a pull out from four towns prior to the elections. 'Arafat raised the issue of prisoners and the bloody events on the West Bank. He is under pressure from the street in Gaza and the West Bank, which is demanding that he condition the agreement with Israel on the release of Palestinian prisoners. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 25 June carries a related report that adds that "Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said that closing Orient House is not within Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert's jurisdiction. He was responding to Olmert's remarks on the matter. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Peres will confer with the prime minister again tonight to report on his meeting with 'Arafat."]

Redeployment Not Linked to Permanent Talks

TA2606055795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 26 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Political sources say that Israel has made a commitment to the Palestinians to implement the second stage of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment in the territories without any connection to the negotiations over the permanent arrangement. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres stressed to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat that the first stage of redeployment must be carried out, or in other words, an IDF pullout from several population centers. This stage is designed to permit the holding of elections in the territories before the end of 1995 and to start the discussions on the permanent arrangement in May 1996 as stipulated by the Declaration of Principles.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that the Palestinians are studying the Israeli proposals for redeployment presented to Yasir 'Arafat by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres yesterday. Yasir 'Amr, the Palestinian Authority's official in charge of education, said that a certain degree of progress had been made and that it was possible to reach agreement by 1 July. 'Amr said that the Palestinians have agreed to an Israeli withdrawal from four towns during the first stage on the condition that Israel presents a detailed timetable for its continued withdrawal and that there is territorial contiguity among the vacated areas.

'Arafat, Peres on 'Positive' Gaza Talks

JN2506152395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 25 Jun 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat met with the Israeli Foreign Minister at the presidency in Gaza today. The three-hour meeting was very important. The two sides stressed the importance of reaching a final agreement on redeployment in the West Bank, and holding the Palestinian legislative elections on 1 July.

President 'Arafat stressed that the meeting was fruitful and positive. He added: We have held fruitful talks to bridge the gap between the Palestinian and Israeli positions. We will continue until we reach an agreement on 1 July.

President 'Arafat pointed out that Peres emphasized that his government is doing its best to respect this date. The president noted that the gap is still wide between the Palestinian and Israeli sides.

Israeli Foreign Minister Peres said that the meeting was positive, and that it is very possible the negotiations can be concluded by the end of this month.

Peres said that the Palestinian-Israeli ministerial committee will meet next Thursday to discuss releasing a number of Palestinian detainees from Israeli prisons.

President 'Arafat and Minister Peres held a closed meeting, after which members of the two delegations joined them in an expanded meeting.

Attending the meeting on the Palestinian side were Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation; Ahmad Quray', minister of trade, industry, and economy; Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, minister of culture; and al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, secretary general of the presidency. The meeting was attended on the Israeli side by Yosi Beilin, deputy foreign minister, and Uri Savir.

Palestinian, Israeli Economic Officials Meet

TA2506172295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 25 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Israeli and Palestinian businessmen have agreed to set up a joint committee to address problems in the self-rule areas. This was announced today at a meeting of Israeli and Arab chambers of commerce in Cyprus. It was the first time that officials from the chambers of commerce from Israel and the territories have held talks.

Israeli Official on 'Historic' Meeting

NC2506183395 Paris AFP in English 1402 GMT 25 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia, June 25 (AFP) — Israeli and Palestinian business leaders held their first formal meeting on Sunday [25 June] and attempted to thrash out problems in the hope of developing their economies and trade ties with other nations.

The encounter, described as "an historic and important meeting" by Dan Gillerman, president of the Federation of Israeli Chambers of Commerce, took place on the sidelines of a two-day business forum here aimed at improving regional trade.

Around 150 businessmen from 14 European and Middle East countries met at the conference, organised by the Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in the hope of strengthening economic cooperation and links with Europe, and improving the prospects of Arab-Israeli peace.

Gillerman said the Israelis wanted to create an ad hoc joint committee of businessmen, rather than politicians, to build confidence between their two communities.

"It was an opportunity to put on the table all the problems and obstacles in order to make the peace process between us and the Palestinians a real and viable entity," he said.

"We have listened to the complaints and difficulties and obstacles described by the Palestinians. Many of them should be addressed and can be solved quickly," he added.

Gillerman, who said representatives of the hardline Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) were among the Palestinian delegation, added that Israeli Chamber of Commerce members had met their Palestinian counterparts before socially but this was the first formal meeting.

However, Hashim Natshah, deputy chairman of the Palestinian chambers of commerce, sought to play down the significance of the meeting, saying: "What is important is what follows this meeting."

Natshah also denied that he and Ramallah's mayor, As'ad Hassunah, were there as Hamas representatives, although he said he was "proud to have been elected on the Islamic list conforming to its views."

On Saturday Natshah urged businessmen to invest in the Palestinian territories, where PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat's self-rule authority was offering financial incentives.

He also called for help for the Palestinians to "fight unemployment caused by the laying-off of 100,000 inhabitants of the Palestinian territories, whose economy has been linked to Israel's during 27 years of occupation."

Syria's Khaddam Sees Major Difficulties With Israel

MM2306145895 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 23 Jun 95 p 3

[Report by Salwa al-Ustuwani: "A Few Days Before Military Negotiations in Washington, Khaddam Says: Gap With Israel Big; No Normalization If It Does Not Withdraw Fully"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus — Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam stated yesterday that major difficulties continue to obstruct the Syrian-Israeli negotiations. He stressed that the gap is still big between the Syrian and Israeli sides' positions. He said: We cannot say that an agreement has been reached on certain points of significance. He added: What has been agreed upon is some concepts relating to security arrangements. And the chiefs of staff of the two countries will determine their practical application. We hope these points will lead to positive stances.

In a statement to Cairo-based foreign journalists who visited Damascus, Khaddam said: The Israelis are well aware that security cannot be achieved at the expense of either party. It is the Israelis who can make this year a year of peace, because there is no one in the world who is not convinced of Syria's position and Syria's desire for peace.

The journalists arrived in Syria to explore the atmosphere of peace on the Syrian scene on the eve of Syrian Chief of Staff General Hikmat al-Shihabi's trip [to Washington] to hold negotiations with the Israeli side on 27 June.

Khaddam stressed Syria's clear desire for peace, pointing to the official and popular Syrian move toward peace. However, he declined to confirm his optimism, saying: It depends on the results of the Washington negotiations. In the light of these results we will be able to specify the scale of our optimism. No change will occur in the Syrian position. And Syria's demands vis-a-vis the peace question have not changed since the peace efforts began in 1967. These efforts have not been hampered because of the Syrian position, but, rather, because of Israel's positions. With regard to what has been agreed upon, we are committed to it. It consists of a number of general principles. The task of the chiefs of staff is to translate them into detailed measures on the ground.

Clarifying Syria's position on developments in the peace process, Khaddam said: Syria's position is clear, and there is no ambiguity in it. We want a just and comprehensive peace. To achieve that, there has to be a balance in the security arrangements, which are a fundamental — indeed, a main — part of the peace process.

He added: Any security arrangements that are at the expense of either party cannot eventually lead to the establishment of a balanced peace. This is our understanding of the just concepts that have been agreed. Namely, that security arrangements will not be established on one side of the border only, but on both sides of the Syrian-Israeli border, that is, equally and in parallel.

Asked whether that meant a geographical balance, Khaddam said: Naturally, and the arrangements will be based on geography, not on history. Asked about the other parts of the peace process, especially the peace negotiations and normalization, he said: There are issues and elements that are fundamental with regard to peace; they will be discussed at the right time, namely after the two sides agree on them with the U.S. sponsor and in the light of the outcome of the military talks. The discussions will now revolve around the security arrangements, and the other elements concerning the withdrawal to the 4 June [1967] border and the withdrawal from Lebanese territory will follow these talks. We believe that peace is impossible if Israel does not withdraw to the 4 June border. If the Israelis do not agree to this withdrawal, we can say that all we have achieved with Israel vis-a-vis security arrangements will amount to zero.

Asked about the water issue, Khaddam said: Water that springs from Syrian land is Syrian water. Asked what indications Israel is getting in return for the positive indications Syria is getting from Israel, he said: The peace process is bigger than an issue; it is not a matter of guesswork.

Khaddam denied reports that Syria and Israel have reached an agreement. Israel too had denied that. He said: If an agreement had taken place, at least it would have been announced, and in Washington. But there is much talk about many things that are untrue.

As for what the Israelis say about the establishment of relations with Syria, that cannot happen while there is a single [Israeli] soldier on the Syrian Golan territory. The establishment of normal relations between Syria and Israel cannot be discussed before withdrawal. If Israel is talking about that now, as far as we are concerned, it is no more than a maneuver and evidence that it has no desire for peace. Peace matters are clear. When some quarters want to justify the Israeli position by saying that (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq) Rabin wants to absorb [the reaction of] Israeli public opinion, it means that Israeli public opinion does not want [Israel] to withdraw from Syrian and Lebanese territory — which leads us to conclude that the Israelis do not want peace. They want both the peace and the land — which is not possible at all. There can be no peace while a single inch of the land is occupied. It is impossible.

Khaddam added: We do not agree to the normalization policy proposed by Israel. If the Israelis are in a rush to achieve that, that can be achieved within weeks if they withdraw their forces within those weeks. The Syrian Government has made efforts and mobilized the Syrian masses toward the peace process. This mobilization is our message. But what messages have the Israelis offered to the Syrian people? The Israelis are every day offering new messages by bombarding southern Lebanon and refusing to sign the nuclear weapons treaty. Israel has so far offered no evidence of its desire for a real peace.

Khaddam criticized the Oslo agreement, saying: What has Israel offered to (Palestinian President Yasir) 'Arafat, who has lost his popularity as a result of the Oslo agreement? He cannot even recruit five soldiers without Israel's approval.

Asked about the size of the reduction in Syrian forces, he said: How can we reduce our forces while Israel continues to possess nuclear bombs and nuclear weapons and missile, aircraft, and tank industries, in addition to a huge military superiority, plus the U.S. commitment to protecting all its security interests. It is we who should demand that this military superiority be reexamined, because what can we conclude from Israel's retention of this arsenal of weapons, and against whom will these weapons be used? It is we, not Israel, who should worry and be cautious.

The Syrian vice president criticized some of the Arab states that have established contacts with Israel. He said: They have made a grave mistake. We had hoped that that would not happen. However, he said that most Arab states adhere to and support Syria's and Lebanon's peace demands.

Answering another question, Khaddam said that a so-called "new Middle East" is not possible because such a system is supposed to be established among states that are harmonious in terms of their systems and the stage of their economic, development, and scientific growth. He cited as an example the EC's refusal to accept Turkey as a member, despite Turkey's positive stances in its [EC] interests in the past. Thus Israel cannot become a member of the Arab world. How can a system be established with a non-Arab state, when the Arabs themselves have not achieved such a system? Some of the Arab states seeking and expecting aid must establish an Arab system first, then they can talk about a system with other states. Concluding, Khaddam said: There are no disagreements with the Arab peoples in all countries. There are questions between governments that are in charge of their policies. A great deal must be done in order to achieve a different Arab situation.

Algeria

FIS Aide on U.S. State Department 'Pressures'

MM2606112995 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Jun 95 p 2

[Report by Muhammad Sadiq: "Head of Algerian Salvation Front Parliamentary Mission Abroad Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: We Rejected U.S. State Department Request To Dissociate Ourselves From Armed Islamic Group"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Anouar Haddam, head of the [Algerian Islamic] Salvation Front [FIS] Parliamentary Mission Abroad has said that some quarters and individuals in the U.S. Administration, especially in the U.S. State Department, exerted huge pressures on us to dissociate ourselves from the unification process that occurred on 13 May 1994 and from some jihad groups and to foment sedition among the mujahidin. But we rejected all these pressures. And we refused to dissociate ourselves from the Armed Islamic Group [GIA]. We told them openly that we reject the notion that there can be numerous jihad groups in Algeria, and we are lying in wait for anyone who tries to sow the seeds of dispute among jihad groups by trying to attribute some terrorist or violent operations to one of the groups, or by classifying some groups as terrorist and others as not terrorist. We told U.S. officials that we reject these pressures and your request. And that no foreign quarter has the right to interfere in FIS affairs.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Haddam said: Thus the FIS Parliamentary Mission Abroad has for a year refused to continue contacts with the U.S. State Department at the level requested by the latter, that is with the majority party, the FIS. We maintained contacts at adviser level until the U.S. Administration raised the level of the direct meetings.

He said: "As a result of the Parliamentary Mission's decision to suspend the contacts, some circles are launching a campaign to avenge our position, accusing us of unclarity and hesitation. The fact is that they exerted huge pressures and tried to impose positions on us, but we rejected them. We told them, we support the existing jihad and the mujahidin who are loyal to the unity of ranks."

Haddam added: "They exerted huge pressures on us to get us to dissociate ourselves from some jihad groups such as the GIA. They rejected our adherence to mujahidin unity in Algeria and our commitment to the authentic FIS line drawn up by the authentic leadership represented in Shaykhs Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj, which has been followed by Shaykhs Mohamed Said, Abdelkader Hachani, and Abdelrazak Radjam.

"We challenged U.S. officials to provide us with any evidence that some jihad groups have carried out any terrorist actions. They provided no evidence."

He added: "We hope that the U.S. Administration, especially after the appointment of a new official for the Algeria section in the U.S. State Department, will reexamine its position and the information they received from some individuals supporting the putschists [the regime]. We hope the U.S. State Department will reconsider its position."

Haddam warned against the pressures exerted on the FIS, saying: "That makes it look as though the United States is adopting a hostile position toward the Algerian people — which we do not believe is in its interests."

He said: "We are against any terrorist action aimed against innocent people, men or women, who have nothing — directly or indirectly — to do with the security forces' operations. And we refuse that criminal actions be attributed to any of the loyal jihad elements and groups. We requested in the Rome document that an independent committee be formed to investigate these crimes."

He added: "It seems that the voices seeking subversion tend to emerge whenever we move closer to a political solution."

Furthermore, Haddam described the contacts and efforts being made to resolve the crisis as "an initiative of good by (President) Liamine Zeroual. And the FIS has always been willing to contribute to finding a political solution based on the Rome document drawn up by us and the main opposition parties."

He said: "This initiative has allowed a number of FIS leaders to continue to meet with one another, with Shaykhs Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj, and with other brother leaders who have been released. We have full confidence in Shaykhs Madani and Belhadj."

He added: "The meetings are continuing in order to work for a solution. We in the Parliamentary Mission believe that this is part of the first measure demanded by the signatories to the Rome document and which should precede negotiations."

He said: "The first point of these measures involves releasing all officials and guaranteeing the safety of all meetings. We hope that the other FIS and mujahidin leaders will be allowed to join the meetings in order to take the right decision to extricate [the country] from and resolve the crisis in accordance with the stipulations of the Rome document, which is a pledge between us and our other political partners. The FIS continues to adhere to the pledge it signed in Rome. We want all political parties to be — and they must be — included in the peaceful solution."

Official Comments on FIS, 'Democratic' Elections

LD2406190295 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 24 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In an interview given to the French weekly, LE JOURNAL DU DIMANCHE, to be published tomorrow, Algerian Interior Minister Meziane Cherif, says, I quote, that if the people are for the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front], the authorities will respect their decision, and the presidential election will be the most democratic one possible.

FIS Spokeman Views Government Election Proposal

NC2506193595 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 25 Jun 95

[Telephone interview with FIS spokesman Shaykh Rabah Kebir, in Berlin, by MBC announcer Fatimah Bin-Huhu in London; date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Bin-Huhu] Shaykh Kebir, the statements of the interior minister show a great deal of optimism that the cycle of violence will soon be over. Will this be realized through the military option, or will it be the result of talks between the authorities and leaders of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS]?

[Kebir] Thank you. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. We believe that the crisis in our country is a political one resulting from the cancellation of the people's decision. Therefore, this crisis is being resolved by political means through negotiations with the opposition, which represents the Algerian people. The military option has been proven not to work.

[Bin-Huhu] Do you believe that the minister of interior's announcement that an FIS candidate might be allowed to run in the presidential elections is a change in the government's position or has it given in? If the latter, what will it get in return?

[Kebir] As far as we are concerned, priority goes to negotiating to establish peace and stability in the country. After that, the parties that will negotiate—who we say should be the opposition parties associated with the Rome document—will decide what should be done next. At any rate, holding elections will undoubtedly be one way of giving the Algerian people an opportunity to express their opinion. However, before the elections, freedom of choice and security and stability for the people should be guaranteed.

[Bin-Huhu] If things proceed like that, who, in your opinion, will be the FIS candidate in the presidential elections?

[Kebir] I believe that this question is very premature. I believe that if there were any results from the contacts between the leaders of the FIS and the regime—which are being reported on—if there had been any results that would make the Algerian people rejoice, then our leaders would have publicized them by now.

[Bin-Huhu] Shaykh Kebir, the elections are set for December. The FIS candidate should have been determined by now.

[Kebir] This is the authorities' own view and proposal. So far, the opposition's opinion has not been asked and no negotiations have taken place on this matter.

[Bin-Huhu] Shaykh Kebir, the holding of presidential elections is a sure thing now. What conditions should be met to make these elections a success, from the point of view of the FIS, if you agree to run in these elections?

[Kebir] We see that elections were held in 1991 and then annulled. Therefore, we must benefit from this experience. Before holding any elections, we need to have security in the country. We need stability. The people have to feel a sense of responsibility and freedom. Today, unfortunately these conditions do not exist. A state of terror exists in the country. Arrests continue. The situation in the country does not merit this overoptimism.

[Bin-Huhu] Shaykh Rabah Kebir, thank you.

[Kebir] I thank you.

FIS Set To Change Name for Political Activity

MM2306151795 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 23 Jun 95 pp 1, 6

[Report by Jamal Khashuqji: "FIS To Change Its Name in Order To Be Able To Engage in Political Activity Again"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London — Sources in London close to the group in Algeria assigned to hold talks with the leaders of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] yesterday leaked out information that the detained FIS leaders have agreed to change the name of the FIS as part of a solution under which they would be released and would participate in political activity by forming a new Islamic party. But these leaders made that conditional on noninterference of the authorities in the FIS' former charter and adoption of that charter by the new party with the amendments deemed necessary by the FIS Shura Council. That council would be allowed to meet and resume its activities in the context of a national reconciliation that would include an end to violence, release of the detainees, and discontinuation of the legal prosecution of the FIS leaders. The reconciliation is expected to culminate in presidential elections in which the FIS would put up one of its leaders or a national figure acceptable to it as a candidate.

Algerian sources emphasize that the question of allowing the FIS to engage in political activity again under a new name was the main obstacle in the talks, particularly as the FIS leaders did not wish only some of them to agree to such a move, for fear of an internal split. The leaders approached that point with caution and in the suspicion that the aim of the authorities was to split the FIS. But some other parties intervened to convince the FIS to accept this compromise solution. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Mubarak Gives Address After Assassination Attempt

NC2606113095 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1003 GMT 26 Jun 95

[News conference by President Husni Mubarak with unidentified correspondents at Cairo Airport upon his return from Addis Ababa; broadcast in progress — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Mubarak] ...These things are to be expected. I saw [word indistinct] They knocked him down quickly. The security guards got off the vehicles, but the circumstances were unusual. But it is the army system. There is great faith. Egypt is great. Whatever happens, Egypt will not stop [words indistinct]. No Egyptian president will let his people down.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct] before your people and before the world, as the act of aggression targeting you today?

[Mubarak] I want to tell the whole world — I have said this before — terrorism is an international phenomenon. Some countries, even in Europe, harbor terrorists. I repeat that they will pay a heavy price.

[Correspondent] What would you like to tell the Egyptian people at this time?

[Mubarak] I would like to tell the Egyptian people that Egypt is well and will not be shaken by one, two, or three individuals. We must continue and resist terrorism because this is in the interest of citizens.

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Mubarak] We in Egypt, Egypt's circumstances, and its [words indistinct], there is no opposition. We are all Egyptians. Anything that happened to an Egyptian president would shake and harm everyone in Egypt. We may differ and oppose one another but when it comes to [words indistinct], we are all one.

[Unidentified translator, following indistinct question and answer in English] Responding to a question on the nationality of the attackers, President Mubarak said he is not quite sure of their nationality. He said he believes some of them were on rooftops and others came from other places and roads. Others were walking near the vehicles the party was in. What happened was an armed assault, but I absolutely did not fear that. The car's glass was hit by a bullet, which almost penetrated it. But this did not panic the Egyptian delegation members. There were about five attackers. Some of them were on rooftops near us and others came from other places and roads. This is what happened. I am safe, praise be to God. I have returned home. I am quite calm. God almighty, no one else, guards me and everyone.

[Correspondent] We all know that these few terrorist groups are perhaps behind this incident. However, will this incident — and we thank God for your safety — affect your thinking about the issue of democracy in Egypt?

[Mubarak] Democracy has no connection with this. Terrorism is terrorism. Democracy is our line. The supremacy of the law is our principle. Freedoms within the framework of the law and Constitution are untouchable.

[Correspondent] What have you done to your valiant bodyguards, who killed three terrorists?

[Mubarak] In fact, I thanked them while I was on the plane. However, I will see afterward what I can do. I cannot tell you now.

[Correspondent] Can you tell us the names of these bodyguards?

[Mubarak] I see no need to mention names for the sake of public interest. However, all of them — the team which was with me — disembarked. The Ethiopians put them in one car. It is suspicious. They hit the street like lightning and began shooting fire. They killed the three who were near the car. The others, I think, escaped.

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Mubarak] Naturally, they did not expect that there would be shooting from our cars. They came as if they were on a picnic. They were surprised by the shooting and thought the deaths that occurred were enough.

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Mubarak] I left them. We have people there. [Words indistinct] investigation. This is no simple incident

[Correspondent] In your speech before the African summit conference, you were going to speak on the issues of democracy, liberation, and peace. Will Egypt carry on its same policy, even in light of what happened?

[Mubarak] We will not change Egypt's policy because of this incident. We are building a country on democratic foundations. We respect the Constitution and the law. We do not anticipate changing our course because of one or two incidents.

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Mubarak] For years I have been saying terrorism is an international phenomenon. Whoever is sheltering terrorists under the pretext that they are unfairly accused will pay a high price — if not now, then later.

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Mubarak] I tell him I am grateful. I belong to the Egyptian people. I am their president. Let him rest assured that our peace, democracy, and economic reform policy is continuing; no can stop it.

[Correspondent, in English with simultaneous Arabic translation] Mr. President, how do you explain this incident?

[Mubarak, in English with simultaneous Arabic translation] I do not believe that Ethiopia has any connection with these terrorists. I went to Ethiopia on a mission. I believe Ethiopia is not involved in this incident. Regarding Sudan, I would like to say that recently some weapons that had come from Sudan were seized.

[Mubarak continues in Arabic] I have not said anything wrong. However, we know today or tomorrow [words indistinct]. The identity of those killed will be known. I heard that they also injured the Palestinian ambassador. He was there and they injured him. The three who were killed by the guard officers were removed. The [Ethiopian] president told me: First we found two bodies, then we found a third.

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Mubarak] The ones I saw did not look like Ethiopians.

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Mubarak] We do not want to intervene in the internal affairs of other states. We are calling the attention of the states. We tell them: Be on guard, you have a group of terrorists. If they are not doing anything in your country now, a time will come when they will do something. Perhaps they will learn a lesson from the events.

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Mubarak] [Words indistinct] Sudan is known. There is nothing new. The weapons seized two days ago all came from Sudan. They were brand new machine guns wrapped in paper and grease. They had not been used.

[Correspondent] News agency reports said it was possible you would meet with [Sudanese leader] al-Bashir and that there was some Libyan mediation to this effect. Was this taken into account?

[Mubarak] There was no plan for me to meet with al-Bashir or anyone else. However, when we enter the conference, the heads of state meet as heads of their delegations. I will shake hands with everyone. It is illogical that I would shake hands with one and leave out another. These are personal matters. However, there was no program for a meeting with al-Bashir. There was a plan for such a meeting in Morocco, but I declined because he did not want to visit me in my place of residence. Before that in Senegal, he did not want to come to my place of residence. [Words indistinct]

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct] We see terrorists continue to infiltrate from Sudan. We also see weapons smuggling. Perhaps there is a strong possibility that some terrorists came from Sudan.

[Mubarak] Very possible, very possible, but I want to say: Sudan [words indistinct] but at the same time the al-Turabi front is working. A week ago, I received a head of state. He said he talked with al-Bashir and that al-Bashir said he has connections with al-Turabi. How? In other words, the state is something and al-Turabi is something else. In any case, I say Sudan as a people is good. The current phenomenon is strange and [words indistinct].

Reportage, Reaction to Attack on President Mubarak

Minister: No Egyptians Hurt

NC2606121495 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 26 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has denied a report by foreign news agencies that members of the Egyptian delegation accompanying President Mubarak were hurt. He stressed that every member of the delegation accompanying President Mubarak has returned to the homeland with President Mubarak, with God's care.

Opposition Leaders Condemn Attack

*NC2606114095 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1100 GMT 26 Jun 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 26 Jun (MENA) — The opposition party leaders have emphasized their absolute condemnation and rejection of the abortive criminal act of aggression against President Husni Mubarak's motorcade in Addis Ababa. Wafd Party leader Fu'ad Siraj-al-Din said his party strongly denounces the incident and thanks God for President Mubarak's safety and escape from this treacherous aggression. Liberal Party leader Mustafa Kamil Murad stressed that the aggression shows that Egypt, its people, and president are being targeted. He called on all Egyptians to stand united behind President Mubarak. He stressed that he is sure the incident will not affect the peace process President Mubarak is leading, as we stand behind him and back him. He noted that the incident will not harm, but will strengthen the Egyptian people and emphasize their support for their leadership.

Muslim Brothers Denounce Attack

NC2606132795 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1300 GMT 26 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 26 Jun (MENA) — Ma'mun al-Hudaybi, deputy general guide of the Muslim Brothers, has strongly condemned the treacherous attempt on the life of President Husni Mubarak. He said the Muslim Brothers reject it. He added: Praise be to God that President Mubarak and his delegation returned safely to the homeland. We hope the dimensions of this ugly plot will be revealed as soon as possible.

Islamist Group Vows More Attacks

NC2606132495 Paris AFP in English
1250 GMT 26 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, June 26 (AFP) — The armed Islamist group Tala'i' al-Fatah [Vanguards of Conquest] praised an assassination attempt against Egyptian President Husni Mubarak on Monday [26 June], warning he would "not escape" the next attack.

"We praise this action. Even if Mubarak escaped this time, he will not escape the next time," a caller claiming to belong to Tala'i' al-Fatah told an international news agency in Cairo by telephone.

"Tala'i' al-Fatah will put the nails in his coffin," he said.

"We are capable of taking our revenge by the law of an eye-for-an-eye. Islam has taught us dignity," he added.

"Our religion has been humiliated, our blood flows in Egyptian prisons and believers are tortured," he said, hanging up before saying if Tala'i' al-Fatah claimed the Addis Ababa attempt on Mubarak's life.

Tala'i' al-Fatah (vanguard of the conquest) was the military wing of Jihad, the group behind the 1981 assassination of Egyptian president Anwar al-Sadat. But it is reported to have split from the group.

Mubarak on Saturday ratified death sentences against two members of Tala'i' al-Fatah convicted of murdering a policeman and three Coptic Christians in 1993 and 1994.

Twenty-five Tala'i' al-Fatah members have been sentenced to death since December 1992 and several have been executed.

The group claimed two failed assassination attempts, against Egyptian Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi in November 1993 and Interior Minister General Hasan al-Alfi three months earlier.

Mubarak has waged a campaign of suppression against Moslem militants who took up arms to overthrow him in a confrontation which has killed more than 800 people since March 1992.

Mubarak Meets Zeroual; Statement on Talks Issued

NC2506165095 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1340 GMT 25 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 25 Jun (MENA) — Egypt and Algeria have affirmed their support for the efforts exerted to establish a just, comprehensive, and permanent peace in the Middle East based on the resolutions of international legitimacy and the principle of land for peace.

This came in a press statement issued today at the end of talks between President Husni Mubarak and Algerian President Liamine Zeroual.

Presidents Mubarak and Zeroual reaffirmed the importance of a full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab lands, including East Jerusalem, and of enabling the Palestinian people to determine their own future and set up their own independent state with Jerusalem as its capital.

In their statement, Presidents Husni Mubarak and Liamine Zeroual affirm the importance of establishing a region free of weapons of mass-destruction in the Middle East, making Israel join the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT] and open up its nuclear installations to International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] supervision.

The statement notes that Presidents Mubarak and Zeroual reviewed the Arab situation and the honest efforts required to restore Arab solidarity. They affirmed their determination to continue efforts to clear the Arab atmosphere and thus reach true Arab reconciliation.

Presidents Mubarak and Zeroual reaffirmed their concern over the need to develop the role of the Arab League, because it is the house of the Arabs, in order to stay abreast of regional and international developments and pursue the interests of the Arab nation.

Presidents Mubarak and Zeroual expressed support for the Libyan efforts to find a peaceful solution to the Lockerbie problem while respecting Libya's national sovereignty and the principles of international law and legitimacy.

In this regard, the Egyptian and Algerian sides call on the Security Council to study the proposals incorporated within the Arab League Council resolutions regarding this issue.

The two sides expressed their appreciation of the positive steps Iraq has taken toward full implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions. They affirmed the importance of protecting the unity and safety of Iraq and the need to alleviate the suffering of the fraternal Iraqi people.

Following is the text of the press statement:

Within the framework of the distinguished historic relations between Egypt and Algeria and in response to the call from His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, His Excellency President Liamine Zeroual, head of state of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria, came on a fraternal working visit to Egypt during the period 26-27 Muharram 1416, corresponding to 24-25 June 1995, heading a high-ranking delegation.

In an atmosphere marked by a spirit of fraternity and mutual understanding, extensive political talks took place between the two Arab leaders regarding all issues of mutual interest. Presidents Mubarak and Zeroual expressed their deep satisfaction with the continuous development of the strong relations between the two countries in all fields. They praised the results of the second round of the joint higher committee held in Algiers in April. They affirmed the importance of following up on the committee's resolutions and continuing to bolster and strengthen the fraternal relations between the two fraternal countries and peoples, which would guarantee the success of their two marches toward progress, development, and prosperity.

The two presidents affirmed the importance of continuing consultations and coordination between their two countries on all levels in response to the challenges posed by international changes and current regional developments and the need for joint Arab action.

The two Presidents said that they back the current efforts to attain a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the Middle East on the basis of UN resolutions and the land-for-peace principle, a peace that will ensure full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories including east Jerusalem and enable the Palestinian people to exercise self-determination and set up an independent state with Jerusalem as its capital. They stressed that Israel must fulfill its commitments in line with these principles and carry out the pledges that it has made bilaterally to Arabs parties.

The two leaders said priority must be given to the question of establishing a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. They declared that Israel must join the NPT and place its nuclear installations under IAEA supervision.

They reviewed Arab conditions and stressed the need for sincere efforts to restore Arab solidarity. They declared their intention to continue trying to end Arab disputes until genuine Arab reconciliation is attained.

The two presidents said that it is necessary to develop the Arab League's role in a way befitting its character as the home of all Arabs and to enable it to stay abreast of regional and international developments to serve the Arab nation's interests.

They declared their backing for Libya's efforts to reach a peaceful solution to the Lockerbie problem while preserving Libya's national sovereignty, the principles of international law, and the UN resolutions. They urged the UN Security Council to study the Arab League's resolutions on this issue.

They voiced appreciation for the positive steps by Iraq in the context of the full implementation of the relevant UN Security Council resolutions. They also stressed the importance of preserving Iraq's territorial integrity and ending the fraternal Iraqi people's hardships.

His Excellency President Liamine Zeroual informed His Excellency Muhammad Husni Mubarak of the achievements of the Arab Maghreb Union [UMA], an organization of notable national and strategic importance that contributes to the process of Arab integration and collective action. President Zeroual emphasized the importance of Egypt's request to join the UMA. He said it is a positive step on the path of cooperation between Egypt and the UMA countries.

The two presidents exchanged views on the issues that will be discussed by the OAU Addis Ababa summit. They agreed to continue coordination between the two countries in order to overcome Africa's problems.

The two sides emphasized the need to promote and bolster cooperation among the south countries. They also stressed the need to establish North-South cooperation on a more just basis.

The two presidents reiterated their desire for the Nonaligned Movement to continue its important role at the international level in support of peace, stability, and development. They expressed the hope that the summit to be held in Colombia in October will achieve tangible results concerning the movement's issues.

The two presidents welcomed the efforts being made to promote cooperation in the Mediterranean region. They reiterated the importance of the role being played by the Mediterranean Club in promoting ties among the littoral states. The two sides reviewed the current preparations for the European-Mediterranean conference, slated to be held in Barcelona in November. The two leaders stressed the importance of conducting a collective dialogue, of setting up comprehensive, equal cooperation, and of instituting coordination that serves the joint Arab interests.

The two sides condemned all acts of violence and terrorism, the killing of innocent people, and the wasting national potentials that should be used for economic and social development. They expressed satisfaction at international society's increasing awareness in combating and uprooting terrorism.

The two leaders reiterated their commitment to the rules and behavior of the Islamic countries toward the phenomenon of terrorism and violence, stressing that pure Islam is against this phenomenon.

The two leaders voiced concern over the deteriorating situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina. They reiterated their condemnation of the bestial Serbian actions against the Bosnian people. They urged the international community to shoulder its responsibility and implement the relevant UN resolutions as soon possible.

President Zeroual expressed his thanks and appreciation for the warm reception and hospitality accorded him and his delegation during their stay in fraternal Egypt. The Algerian president invited his brother President Husni Mubarak to visit Algeria. President Mubarak accepted the invitation; the date of the visit will be set later.

Musa on Talks, Jerusalem 'Violence'

*NC2406203895 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1950 GMT 24 Jun 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 24 Jun (MENA) — Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has said that Egyptian-Algerian talks will resume Sunday [25 June] morning before Algerian President Liamine Zeroual leaves Cairo.

He said today's talks between Presidents Husni Mubarak and Liamine Zeroual and between the Egyptian and Algerian delegations dealt with the Arab situation, the peace process, and relations between Egypt and Algeria.

The discussions also dealt with the topics on the agenda of the African summit, which will open in Addis Ababa Monday, and with some problems in the Arab region, he said.

He said that in his talks with Algerian Foreign Minister Mohamed Dembri, Egypt's joining of the Arab Maghreb Union as an observer was discussed.

On the African conflict-solving mechanism, Musa said this subject is on the table of the African summit, but the problem is the lack of financing. He noted that peacekeeping missions need huge amounts of funds and the region is already suffering financial problems.

Musa said this African summit will be the last opportunity for the states that have failed to meet their financial obligations to the OAU. At the next summit, he explained, the fulfillment of these obligations will be scrutinized.

He noted positive developments in this respect as 12 out of the 22 OAU states have paid 25 percent of their overdue financial obligations. The other 10 states are expected to pay portions of their arrears.

Asked about the escalation of confrontation between the Palestinians and the Israelis in Jerusalem and the occupied Arab territories, and if this is comparable to the Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon, the foreign minister said it is necessary and important to maintain the general atmosphere that surrounds the negotiations and to stop violence on both sides. He said the sense of frustration can be removed by removing its causes.

Information Minister Reviews Talks

NC2506134995 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 25 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has stated that Presidents Mubarak and Zeroual finalized the discussion of a number of issues, foremost of which is bilateral cooperation between the two countries in the economic, technical, educational, and other fields. He said that most of the time allocated for the talks was dedicated to discussing bilateral cooperation in the economic field. It was decided to form two working groups, one of them chaired by Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and the other by the Algerian side, to work on bolstering this cooperation. The information minister said the two groups will meet soon. Safwat al-Sharif added that African issues and the topics to be discussed during the African summit in Addis Ababa topped the list of discussions between the two presidents. He said talks also focussed on Arab issues in general and current contacts on various tracks.

Safwat al-Sharif said that over a working luncheon the two presidents discussed a number of topics relating to bilateral cooperation in various fields, including industry, agriculture, and electricity, as well as military cooperation in training officers at higher military colleges and academies, and cooperation in the field of information.

Al-Baz on Peace Talks, Ties With Sudan, Iran

NC2506210495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2000 GMT 25 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 25 Jun (MENA) — Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, said that the peace negotiations on the Syrian-Israeli track are progressing very slowly.

He said that the plan under discussion now involves four main points: The Israeli withdrawal from the Golan to the 4 June 1967 borders; the establishment of peace between Syria and Israel; the linkage between the withdrawal and the establishment of relations so that there will be coordination between these two elements, in other words, withdrawal will define the extent of progress in relations; and the security arrangements.

In statements to ROSE AL-YUSUF to be published tomorrow, Monday, al-Baz said that, in its capacity as the mediator, the United States has seen that the security factor is of major importance and will define the extent that understanding is reached on the other factors; it, therefore, believes the necessity of starting the negotiations on security arrangements between senior military officials. He added: If there is understanding on security, then the negotiations on the other issues will be easier.

Al-Baz said he expects the security negotiations to take a long time, adding that the United States regards them as the start of the Syrian-Israeli peace negotiations.

Replying to a question, al-Baz stressed that Egypt will not interfere in what is taking place in Sudan, because Egypt refuses to interfere in the internal affairs of others; and there will be no strong reaction on the part of Egypt to the Sudanese violations because Egypt and Sudan are one people.

Dr. al-Baz denied that there is any objection to establishing relations with Iran; all we want from Iran is a wise and rational policy that enables us to deal with it.

He stated two conditions for establishing normal relations with Iran: Its noninterference in Egypt's internal affairs and no pressuring of the Gulf states to serve its own interests, because everything that happens in the Arab region concerns Egypt and its security.

'Urayqat Views Peace Talks, Israeli Obstacles

NC2506210995 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 25 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Following his meeting with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa in Cairo this afternoon, Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government in the Palestinian Authority, said he had conveyed a message from President Yasir 'Arafat to President Husni Mubarak inviting Egypt to participate in the international teams that will supervise the Palestinian elections.

He added that he also briefed Musa on the latest developments on all the negotiation tracks and the obstacles impeding the implementation of the 1 July agreement, particularly the redeployment of the Israeli forces, the Jerusalem inhabitants' participation in the elections, and the release of the Palestinian detainees.

'Urayqat stressed the need for Israel to make the political decision to implement the agreement. He also underlined the importance of Israel's respect for the signed agreements and for the dates set for implementing the agreement. He said: Israel's delay in implementing the agreement set for 1 July will have negative repercussions on the peace process. He added: We will not allow Israel to use the 1 July date as a sword dangled over the heads of the Palestinians by trying to make them sign a partial agreement while leaving the rest to some date in the future.

On the Syrian-Israeli negotiations and their effects on the Palestinian track, 'Urayqat said that the methods used by Israel on the Palestinian track are the same ones it is using on the Syrian track. He added that the peace process is clear and is based on Security Council Resolution 242, the return of the Golan and West Bank territories occupied in 1967, and withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. He stressed that the Arabs seek a comprehensive solution.

Morocco

Daily Criticizes U.S. Draft Law on 'Terrorism'

LD2306140095 Rabat MAP in English 1351 GMT 23 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rabat, Jun. 23 (map) — Moroccan daily 'BAYANE AL-YOUM' criticized Thursday [22 June] an American draft law on 'struggle against terrorism' saying the law will make the United States the 'cop of the world'.

The Justice Commission at the U.S. Congress approved a draft law that enlarges the power of the federal authorities in the struggle against terrorism and gives them 'legality' to act outside the United States.

[Words indistinct] 'dangerous violation' of the international legality and the rights and customs in force in the world, said the daily of the Party for Progress and Socialism (PPS/former Communist Party).

The daily, which condemned terrorism and recognized the sovereignty of the United States to impose its own laws, underlined that no country has the right to be 'the cop of the world'.

The countries who reject terrorism do not need a foreign umbrella or protection to face this phenomenon which should be settled at the United Nations, the daily added.

Spanish Minister Pays Official Visit to Rabat

Holds Talks With Filali

LD2306210895 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 23 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Moroccan-Spanish talks were held in Rabat today. Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana arrived in the Moroccan capital this afternoon and held a meeting with Abdellatif Filali, prime minister and minister of foreign affairs and cooperation. During the meeting, which lasted one and a half hours, the two sides reviewed bilateral relations and issues of common interest.

Meets With King Hassan

LD2306234095 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 23 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Hassan II received Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana at the Royal Palace in Skhirat this evening. Solana is accompanied by Gabriel Ferran de Alfaro, Spain's ambassador to in Rabat. This meeting was attended by Abdellatif Filali, Moroccan prime minister and minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, and Ali Benbouchta, His Majesty's ambassador in Madrid.

The Moroccan prime minister and minister of foreign affairs and cooperation held earlier talks with the Spanish foreign minister and discussed bilateral relations and issues of common interest with him.

Clears Up 'Misunderstandings'

LD2406074995 Madrid RNE-1 Radio Network in Spanish 0700 GMT 24 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Javier Solana has gone to Rabat for talks with the Moroccan authorities and to try to redress increasingly worsening bilateral relations. The fishing dispute was at the center of the talks that Solana held with King Hassan II and with his opposite number, Abdellatif Filali. Frank Zamorano reports from Rabat:

[Zamorano] Foreign Minister Javier Solana will leave Morocco this morning after his visit yesterday, during which he met his Moroccan counterpart Abdellatif Filali and King Hassan II. Ahead of the news conference, which will take place in two hours' time, Spanish diplomatic sources noted that the aim of his visit has been fulfilled: improving bilateral relations between the two countries and clearing up misunderstandings was the task of the foreign minister, who said on his arrival that the fishing dispute is just one of the matters to be discussed and that it is the Commission that negotiates these questions. Relations between Spain and Morocco are not going through a good phase, Javier Solana observed on his arrival, and thus this visit may have represented this required rapprochement between the two countries.

[Announcer] So Javier Solana will announce the results of the meeting this morning.

Addresses 'Heavy Atmosphere' of Ties

LD2406114595 Madrid RNE-1 Radio Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Before leaving Morocco this morning, Foreign Minister Javier Solana said that his talks with King Hassan II and with his opposite number, Abdellatif Filali, were positive. They did not only discuss fishing but also Spain's coming European Union [EU] presidency. Frank Zamorano covered the awaited news conference in Rabat.

[Zamorano] Good afternoon. Foreign Minister Javier Solana left for Spain early this morning. His talks here in Rabat with his Moroccan opposite number, Abdellatif Filali, and with King Hassan II left an agreeable taste. Solana thinks that his visit must contribute to facilitating the fishing negotiations.

[Begin Solana recording] I think that we have achieved what I believe was the spirit of this visit, the meaning of this visit, which was basically to try to clear the atmosphere, the excessively heavy atmosphere, in bilateral relations between Morocco and Spain.

I believe that clearing the atmosphere must facilitate the negotiations on fishing matters which the commission has to carry out. It is the commission which negotiates. And I will tell you that logically it was not the only subject about which we spoke. When I speak of clearing the atmosphere I am speaking of clearing the atmosphere in all the manifestations of our bilateral relationship. [end recording]

[Zamorano] In addition to the fishing question, Solana discussed other matters of interest to both countries, such as the future Mediterranean summit and Spain's coming EU presidency.

Sudan

'Mighty Row' With Eritrea Said 'Getting Worse'

AB2206172495 London BBC World Service in English 1505 GMT 22 Jun 95

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The mighty row between Sudan and Eritrea is getting worse. Diplomatic relations between the two countries were broken off at the end of last year over mutual allegations that the two countries were harboring each others enemies. Then at the weekend, Sudanese opposition parties and SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] rebels began a meeting at Asmara under the auspices of the Eritrean Government to find ways of bringing democracy to Sudan. General Al-Bashir's regime in Khartoum has angrily raised the issue at the OAU meeting in Addis Ababa and now Sudan's defense and security boss has been telling Parliament about measures being taken. From Khartoum, Alfred Taban telexed this report:

Major General Muhammad 'Abdallah Uwaydah, the head of the Security and Defense Committee at the Transitional National Assembly, told Parliament yesterday that security around government buildings and utilities at the border areas to the east had been tightened in anticipation of Eritrean-backed threats. The general said that the Army, the police, and other security organs are imposing tight security measures at border posts, bridges, highways, and seaports in anticipation of problems that might emanate from the opposition meeting in Asmara.

General Uwaydah described all those who took part in the meeting as traitors who represent a threat to the national security of the country. He called for the exclusion of the participants at the meeting from the general amnesty which the president declared in Juba, Southern Sudan's largest town, on Tuesday [20 June]. The general, who was once the official spokesman of the Armed Forces, called the Asmara meeting a subversive conspiracy and a blatant interference in the affairs of Sudan under the umbrella of American and Israeli imperialism.

Meanwhile, the Libyan Government has sent a representative here on the speculation that the visit may be connected with the border tension. The Libyan permanent representative to the Arab League, Ibrahim Mohamed al-Buchari, arrived in Khartoum yesterday evening carrying a written message from Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to General Al- Bashir. Al-Buchari told state radio that the question of relations between Sudan and Eritrea was amongst the issues contained in the message.

Reaction to Opposition Meeting in Eritrea Reported

Al-Bashir Condemns Meeting

EA2206195295 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, president of the Republic, has affirmed that the ongoing balanced development March will go ahead until it reaches all the areas which have been marginalized in the past. That is what he told a mass rally in Al-Damazin today.

His Excellency condemned the scattered remnants of the attenuated [political] alliance conspiring against the security of the homeland in the implementation of a plan from the United States under the auspices of the Eritrean regime. He said that just when the sons of the homeland were forging ahead toward development and construction, this gang of renegades was gathering to plan the destruction of the country. The president of the Republic stressed that the Sudanese were totally determined to build their homeland by way of self-reliance. [passage omitted]

Radio Criticizes U.S. Influence

EA2506204495 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1327 GMT 25 Jun 95

[Station commentary by al-Zubayr Uthman Ahmad]

[FBIS Translated Text] The meetings for the African summit will begin in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, tomorrow. Sudan will attend with a high-level delegation led by Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, the president of the Republic.

The summit of presidents and leaders of African states faces many concerns and problems which need to be dealt with, for there is the economic situation of the states of the continent and many disputes that afflict our African continent, and which require a purely African solution.

Concerning the convening of the African summit, colleague al- Zubayr Uthman Ahmad, has written and reads the radio's commentary on the news:

[Al-Zubayr] African leaders are meeting for their summit in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, while on their agenda there are many concerns and afflictions waiting to be tackled and settled in a manner which lives up to the aspirations of the peoples of the African continent. Perhaps among the most important issues over which the African leaders will spar are the economic situation, indebtedness, security, and stability in Africa.

At a time when Africans are meeting to discuss these issues, specifically concerning security and stability, we find that Eritrean President Isayas Afewerki is using ambiguous language and straying from the flock: He is opening his doors and willingly sponsoring a conference to destabilize security and stability in an African country. Among the conference's declared aims were the transfer of war in the south to the north of Sudan, and efforts for Sudan's partition. At a time when Africans are striving to stifle dissension and defuse explosions on the continent, we find Isayas Afewerki pouring oil on the fire. He is hatching conspiracies and devising plans to kindle dissension and renew conflict in the Horn of Africa after peace had begun to return to this region. Isayas Afewerki has become a puppet in the hands of international imperialism and world Zionism, implementing their policies and designs. He has become a cat's paw for achieving their ambitions in the Horn of Africa.

Consequently, he is following a program which runs counter to the African line. He is doing this at a time when Africa is becoming increasingly aware of the need for independent decisionmaking by Africans, and the importance of emancipation from subordination, of liberation from all forms of colonialism, and of dealing with African affairs within Africa.

However, we find that Isayas Afewerki holding a Sudanese opposition conference under U.S. auspices, and in the presence of the U.S. and Israeli ambassadors in Asmara. This is a retrograde step and a relapse of the African consciousness, representing a threat to security in Africa, an opportunity for neo-colonialism to infiltrate into Africa through Isayas Afewerki and a return to penetration and hegemony.

It is as if Afewerki does not give a hoot about African affairs, attach any importance to the OAU [Organization of African Unity], or pay attention to African leaders. This is nothing new to him, because he has launched vehement attacks on the organization and on senior leaders in Africa before.

We wish the OAU summit success in the task it is undertaking. We hope it will reach decisive resolutions on numerous issues, and that Africans will play a greater role in tackling the continent's issues, just as Malawian President Bakili Muluzi did in brokering talks between Uganda and Sudan, and that God will help the African continent to avoid being dragged into a situation in accordance with the will of one of its obstinate sons. Success comes only from God.

Meeting Reportedly Ends 'Successfully'

EA2306205895 Asmara Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea in Tigrinya 1600 GMT 23 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The conference of the Sudanese National Democratic Alliance ended successfully today. The delegates in their nine days of talks raised and discussed the issue of self-determination, the relationship between religion and politics, and other important issues.

The delegates have agreed to hold a cease-fire immediately after the fall of the National Islamic Front regime. They have also agreed on the methods and structure that they will adopt to bring down the present regime. The conference has also agreed to hold a referendum in southern Sudan after the transitional period, so that the people of southern Sudan will decide their destiny in the presence of the international community.

They have found a solution to the most controversial issue of separating religion from politics. The communique issued today noted that they have resolved that Sudan will be a country for all its citizens, no matter what their religion or tribe.

Further on Concluded Meeting

AB2406204095 London BBC World Service in English 1705 GMT 24 Jun 95

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sudanese groups opposed to the Islamic- oriented government in Khartoum have ended their week of talks in the Eritrean capital on a high note. The gathering has clearly irritated the Sudanese head of state, General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, and officials have dismissed the opposition's declared intention of overthrowing the government as a joke; but the main political parties seem to have resolved some of their most serious differences with the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] rebels. From Asmara, our correspondent, Jackie Sotten, faxed this report:

Sudanese opposition groups of the National Democratic Alliance [NDA] claimed to have reached an agreement on a formula to end the war in Sudan. At the end of the conference in Asmara, SPLA leader John Garang, who chaired the meeting, said the unity among the opposition groups had been secured. Garang said that the NDA could now be considered a credible alternative to the Khartoum-based National Islamic Front. He also added that the NDA would be claiming a seat at the

OAU summit in Addis Ababa. It was announced last night that the Kordofan-based Sudanese Democratic Federal [SDFA] Alliance will join in the NDA. The SDFA secretary general, (Ahmed Direj), congratulates the northern Ummah and DUP [Democratic Unionist Party] parties for agreeing to compromise over self-determination, and state religious issues.

The National Democratic Alliance agreed that religion should not be exploited for political gain, and banned religious-based parties, and said that the state should allow the peaceful coexistence of religion. The NDA drew up a program calling for a joint national reconciliation government once the Khartoum government has been ousted.

The Asmara meeting drew together rival southern rebel leaders as well as northern Muslim groups, and the NDA new chairman will be Mwlana al-Sayyid Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, leader of the DUP; the new NDA secretary general will be the 'Ummah Party's (Mubarak Fahd al-Mahdi); assistant secretary general will be the SPLA's Mansur Khalid. John Garang explained that he himself was too busy with operational duties to take a leadership role. Garang added that the NDA would now function as a shadow government, and that the struggle against Khartoum would intensify on all fronts.

Al-Bashir, Delegation Leave for OAU Summit

EA2506145795 Khartoum SUNA in French
0930 GMT 25 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Khartoum, 25 June (SUNA) — The president of the Republic, General 'Umar al-Bashir, left Khartoum this morning for [word indistinct] at the head of the Sudanese delegation, to take part in the Organization of African Unity [OAU] summit [word indistinct] from 26 to 28 June [words indistinct] the Ethiopian capital. [passage omitted]

Bahrain

Government Resigns; Former Prime Minister Appointed

JN2506115095 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1136 GMT 25 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 25 Jun (WAKH) — The Bahraini Government tendered its resignation today to His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the State of Bahrain.

His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the State of Bahrain, issued an amiri decree accepting the resignation of the government. The amir also issued another amiri decree reappointing His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah prime minister and charging him with forming a new government.

The Bahraini Council of Ministers held its ordinary weekly session at 0930 today at the conference hall under the chairmanship of His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, prime minister. Following the session, Muhammad Ibrahim al-Mutawwa', minister of state for cabinet affairs, made a statement in which he said:

His highness the prime minister informed the cabinet, at the beginning of the session, of his intention to tender the resignation of the government to His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the country. His highness the prime minister noted that this decision has been made to give his highness the amir the opportunity to take whatever steps he deems necessary in preparation for the new stage in terms of national work on the path of political, economic, and social development which his highness hopes to achieve for the homeland and citizens. Within this framework, his highness the prime minister reaffirmed that the cabinet has perfectly shouldered its duties thanks to the continuous support of his highness the amir. The prime minister thanked their excellencies the ministers, reaffirming his pride in having them as his colleagues and his appreciation for their honest efforts as they have always been an example of sincerity and dedication in the service of the homeland.

His Excellency Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Khalid Al Khalifah, minister of justice and Islamic affairs, delivered a speech on behalf of the ministers, in which he expressed appreciation for the prime minister. He paid tribute to the prime minister's wise leadership and dedication in the service of his highness the amir and our beloved country. The minister of justice and Islamic affairs concluded by saying: We pledge to God that we will remain loyal soldiers of the amir and beloved Bahrain.

Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, the prime minister, tendered the cabinet's resignation to Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah. The following is the text of the resignation letter:

Our esteemed brother, Your Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain:

God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you.

Best greetings to Your Excellency.

Your Highness entrusted me several years ago to assume the trust of the cabinet. The previous stage required concentrated efforts to bring about urgent comprehensive developments to enable Bahrain to catch up with other nations.

I thank God because my colleagues and I have succeeded in assuming the trust. Thanks to your directives and the support of the loyal Bahraini people, we have managed to steer the ship to a safe shore and accomplish what we had pledged to do in the political, economic, social, cultural, defense and security fields. We have carried out our duties toward our country and what we promised Your Highness.

Therefore, I have the honor to tender to Your Highness the cabinet's resignation so that you may manage our affairs using your great wisdom and experience.

Please accept our best regards.

[Signed] Prime Minister Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah

His highness the esteemed amir of the country has sent a reply message to His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah accepting the cabinet's resignation and charging his highness with tackling urgent state matters until a new cabinet is formed.

The following is the text of the message:

Your Highness our dear brother Shaykh Khalifah, son of the late father Shaykh Salman Bin-Hamad Al Khalifah, esteemed prime minister, may God protect you;

May God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you.

We have taken note of your letter, which contained the cabinet's resignation after it has performed its duty in the best possible manner.

It pleases us to express to you our heartfelt appreciation and thanks for you and their highnesses your cabinet colleagues for the noble efforts you have made during your assumption of the premiership. Your performance during that time has been marked by honesty, sincerity, and a desire to promote the well-being of the homeland and citizens as well. We have decreed the acceptance of the cabinet resignation. We have also decreed that you shall discharge urgent state matters until a new cabinet is formed.

May Your Highness accept our greetings and appreciation.

[Signed] 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the State of Bahrain

[Date] Issued at the al-Rifa' Palace on 27 Muharram 1416 Hegira, corresponding to 25 June 1995

Amiri Decree No. 7 of 1995 accepting the cabinet's resignation has been issued. The following is the text of the decree:

Amiri Decree No. 7 of 1995 accepting the cabinet's resignation:

Having reviewed the Constitution of the State of Bahrain issued on 11 Dhu al-Qi'dah 1395 Hegira, corresponding to 6 December 1973, and having taken cognizance of the resignation letter submitted to us by the prime minister on 27 Muharram 1416 Hegira, corresponding to 25 June 1995, we, 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the State of Bahrain, have decreed the following:

Article 1. The cabinet's resignation is accepted as of the date this decree is issued.

Article 2. The prime minister shall be charged with discharging urgent state affairs until a new cabinet is formed.

Article 3. This decree goes into effect as of the date of its issuance. It shall also be published in the Official Gazette.

[Signed] 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the State of Bahrain

[Date] Issued at the al-Rifa' Palace on 27 Muharram 1416 Hegira, corresponding to 25 June 1995

Additionally, His Highness the country's esteemed amir has sent a letter of designation to His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah asking him to form a new cabinet. The following is the text of the letter.

Your Highness our dear and esteemed brother Shaykh Khalifah, son of the late father Shaykh Salman Bin-Hamad Al Khalifah, may God protect him. May God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you.

You have always been the object of our trust and respect for the firm resoluteness, sound judgment, strong determination, sincerity, and devotion you have demonstrated in the course of your efforts to serve your country and compatriots. Hence, it pleases us to ask you to form a new cabinet.

Having laid down the basic foundations for the political, economic, and social life in our dear homeland, it has become only natural for our country to start a new phase. This requires us to redouble our efforts and promote our policies as well as the methods used to pursue them in order to ensure the achievement of priority tasks in the areas of development and prosperity on the basis of calculated scientific planning, constant specialized follow-up, unerring accountability, investment, and the optimal rationalization of state revenues and spending.

The formulation of a clear and specific program for the cabinet is now a must. It is necessary if we are to achieve development and prosperity. Such a program will constantly promote the development endeavor and lend the government the vitality, renewal, and ability it needs to do more at a faster pace.

We have decreed that Your Highness shall begin your consultations to form a new cabinet. Once you are finished, submit the draft cabinet configuration to us so we may issue the relevant decree.

We pray to God that He will grant us and you success so we may obtain His satisfaction and promote the wellbeing of our country and our dear people.

[Signed] Sincerely yours, 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the state of Bahrain

[Date] Issued at the al-Rifa' Palace on 27 Muharram 1416 Hegira, corresponding to 25 June 1995

Amiri Decree No. 8 of 1995 appointing a prime minister has been issued. The following is the text of the decree:

Amiri Decree No. 8 of 1995 appointing a prime minister:

Having reviewed the Constitution of the State of Bahrain issued on 11 Dhu al-Qi'dah 1395 Hegira, corresponding to 6 December 1972, and of the Amiri Decree No. 7 of 1995 accepting the cabinet's resignation issued on 27 Muharram 1416 Hegira, corresponding to 25 June 1995, we have decreed the following:

Article 1. His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah shall be appointed prime minister. He is charged with naming a new cabinet.

Article 2. This decree goes into effect as of the date of its issuance, and shall be published in the Official Gazette.

[Signed] 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the State of Bahrain

[Date] Issued at the al-Rifa' Palace on 27 Muharram 1416 Hegira, corresponding to 25 June 1995

Decree Announces New Cabinet Lineup

JN2606065695 Manama Radio Bahrain Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 26 Jun 95

["Text" of Amiri Decree No. 12 of 1995 forming a new Cabinet; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] We, 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of the State of Bahrain, taking cognizance of the Constitution of the State of Bahrain, issued on 11 Dhu al-Qi'dah 1395 Hegira, corresponding to 6 December 1973, and Amiri Decree No. 8 of 1995, issued on 27 Muharram 1416 Hegira, corresponding to 25 June 1995, appointing His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah prime minister and charging him with the task of naming the new cabinet members, and in accordance with what the prime minister conveyed to us in his letter on 27 Muharram 1416 Hegira, corresponding to 25 June 1995, decree the following:

Article 1. Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Khalid Al Khalifah shall be appointed minister of justice and Islamic affairs;
Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah, minister of foreign affairs;
Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Khalifah Al Khalifah, minister of the interior;
Shaykh 'Ali Bin-Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, minister of transportation;
Jawad Salim al-'Urayyid, minister of state;
Shaykh Khalid Bin-'Abdallah Al Khalifah, minister of housing, municipalities, and environment;
Najih Jawad al-Bishri, minister of public works and agriculture;
Ibrahim 'Abd-al-Karim Muhammad, minister of finance and national economy;
Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Ahmad Al Khalifah, minister of defense;
Muhammad Ibrahim al-Mutawwa', minister of cabinet affairs and information;
Shaykh 'Isa Bin-'Ali Al Khalifah, minister of oil and industry;
'Ali Salih 'Abdallah al-Salih, minister of trade;
'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin-Muhammad al-Fadil, minister of education;
Dr. Faysal [name indistinct], minister of health;
'Abdallah Muhammad Jum'ah, minister of electricity and water;
'Abd-al-Nabi 'Abdallah al-Shu'lah, minister of labor and social affairs.

Article 2. The prime minister shall implement this decree, which will be enforced as of the date of its issuance. It shall be published in the official gazette.

[Signed] 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of the State of Bahrain; Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, the prime minister

Issued at the al-Rifa' Palace on 28 Muharram 1416 Hegira, corresponding to 26 June 1995

Kuwait

Russian Envoy: Iraq Must Implement All Resolutions

LD2406171595 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1458 GMT 24 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 24 Jun (KUNA) — Russia today affirmed its principled position towards the inevitability of Iraq's implementation of all international resolutions pertinent to its aggression on the State of Kuwait.

In a statement to KUNA at the end of his two-day visit to Kuwait, Viktor Posuvalyuk, Russian deputy foreign affairs minister, stressed: "I would like to confirm to the Kuwaitis that Russia is still on its principled position that Iraq should implement all Security Council resolutions."

Posuvalyuk, the Russian president's envoy to the Middle East, who headed to the UAE as part of his tour of the region, stated: "I have confirmed to my friends in Kuwait, on behalf of the Russian Government, that we will seek and exert all our efforts to help regarding the issue of the Kuwaiti POWs and missing, and to deal with the matters awaiting settlement in this respect."

The prominent Russian official, in charge of Middle East file [words indistinct] (?met) earlier today the first deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah. He also held two working sessions with Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin.

Minister Comments on Privatization of Companies

LD2406200195 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1822 GMT 24 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 24 Jun (KUNA) — Nasir al-Rawdan, the second deputy prime minister and finance minister, today invited investors who are interested in buying any of the companies that the government is going ahead to sell to the private sector to submit their applications.

In a special statement to KUNA today he said that the government is going ahead with the privatization program that it had drawn up in a five-year plan that began last year. He said: "Anyone interested in any of the companies on offer we are quite ready to receive their applications.... However, there is a program and a plan for offering these companies for sale."

The government had sold its shares comprising 170 million shares in the National Industries company two days ago for 193.8 million Kuwaiti dinars at a public auction. The shares represented 84.5 percent of the total of 350 million shares. [passage omitted]

Al-Rawdan expects that "If matters on the market proceed as they are doing now we will accomplish the program in less the time fixed for the privatization plan."

It is worth mentioning that the government put on the stock exchange market a number of its 63 companies in which it holds shares. They include the Commercial Facilities company; the al-Khalij Insurance company; the National Industries company; the National Bank; the National Real Estate company, and the United Real Estate company. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Bosnia's Izetbegovic Praises Country's Assistance

LD2406203395 Riyadh SPA in English
1942 GMT 24 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jeddah, June 24, SPA — Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic has lauded the moral and material assistance being extended by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to his country.

The government of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz comes in the list of the first countries which have extended support to the Bosnian cause at all international forums, he said in a press statement published here today.

The Bosnian people will never forget the kingdom's continuous support to their country, he added.

Izetbegovic expressed appreciation for the donation of King Fahd of 5000 tons of flour to the Bosnian people and said this donation comes within the framework of the kingdom's moral and material support to Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Foreign Minister Urges Lifting Bosnian Arms Embargo

LD2406232595 Riyadh SPA in Arabic
2210 GMT 24 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Riyadh, 24 Jun — His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister, has said that the fresh wave of siege and shelling by the Serb forces in the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina constitutes an attempt to resume acts of annihilation and ethnic cleansing since the absence of any deterrent to prevent them from persisting with their odious aggressive policy has become clear to the Bosnian Serbs.

The statement was made after his highness met Bosnia-Herzegovinian Ambassador Tahir Beresdric on Saturday.

His highness added that the persistent and blatant Serb defiance of the simplest principles of justice and civilized behavior left the entire international body with only two options: either to take a stern and firm stance to prevent the Serbs from continuing their policy of aggression and ethnic cleansing against the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, or give the opportunity to Bosnians to legitimately defend themselves by lifting the arms embargo which has benefited no one except the aggressors.

Finance Minister on Joint Meeting With Yemen

LD2406225895 Riyadh SPA in Arabic
2058 GMT 24 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Riyadh, 24 Jun — Muhammad Aba-al-Khayl, minister of finance and national economy, says that the joint Saudi-Yemeni committee discussed during today's meeting opportunities for economic, commercial, and cultural cooperation between the two countries, and efforts to promote them. [passage omitted]

His excellency added: The committee will make recommendations to the two governments and then meet again.

His excellency pointed out that regarding the cultural aspect of the talks, the committee reassessed the existing cultural agreement between the two countries and discussed ways of revitalizing it. He said subsequent meetings would be held to achieve that objective.

Financial 'Experts' Highlight Strength of Economy

LD2406203095 Riyadh SPA in English
1948 GMT 24 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beirut, June 24, SPA — A number of economic and financial experts have highlighted the strong foundation of the Saudi economy and said the Kingdom has successfully overcome the economic difficulties faced by the world economy.

The experts have praised the procedures and arrangements made by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia within the last two years to adapt itself to the economic developments and changes and said those procedures and arrangements have yielded positive results within a short span of period.

The experts interviewed by SPA at the fringes of the conference of 'Markets of Arab Capitals', recently held in Beirut, have reiterated the strength of the Saudi economy and refuted the fabricated reports on the alleged economic difficulties faced by the Kingdom and said these reports which are not based on scientific facts are characterized with exaggeration.

The experts have made it clear that the kingdom, which owns huge oil reserves, is capable of producing this strategic commodity, diversifying its sources of income and growing its non-oil exports.

Despite economic fluctuations and drop of oil prices, the Kingdom's economy will remain strong, said Dr Jasim al-Manna'ei and added that 'the Kingdom has taken proper and wise measures to tackle the problem of deficit in the general budget'.

Dr al-Manna'ei pointed out that the Saudi economy is characterized with presence of promising and growing non-oil sector and said the Saudi non-oil exports which constitute a great portion of the national income, has made job opportunities available for the citizens.

Dr al-Manna'ei said the reports on the economic difficulties that face the Kingdom are characterized with exaggeration and lack of accuracy and added that the kingdom was able to surpass all economic difficulties witnessed by the region following the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait.

For his part Dr Mahmud 'Abd-al-'Aziz, the president of the Federation of Arab Banks, described the Saudi economy as a promising economy.

The Kingdom is no longer a mere oil exporting country, he said and added 'this situation has changed'.

The Saudi Government after implementing the infrastructure projects has started to diversify its sources of income and set up strong light and heavy industries and at the same time has successfully developed the agricultural sector, he said.

He highlighted the ongoing process of privatization in the Kingdom and the activity of the Saudi stock market.

The Kingdom is capable of overcoming any economic difficulty through its own resources, he said.

On the other hand Dr Fawzi Bahrizad, the director general of Bahraini stock market, said the reports which allege that the Kingdom is facing economic problems are not accurate and added that 'these fabricated reports have non-economic goals'.

Secretary General of the Society of Lebanon's Banks Dr Makram Sabir refuted the allegations about the economic difficulties in the Kingdom and said the Kingdom tops the list of the countries that extend aid to the Arab, Muslim and foreign countries.

Diversification of the Saudi economy in addition to diversification of sources of income and presence of huge reserves of oil provide a clear evidence for the strength of the Saudi economy, he said.

Dr Abdullah al-Quaiz, the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] assistant secretary general for economic affairs, said the Kingdom was able in a very short span of period to surpass the extraordinary situation witnessed by the Gulf region and its adverse impact.

Iyad Mals, the regional director of the administration of the markets of the capitals in Central Asia, Middle East and North Africa at the international financing organization, highlighted the measures taken by the Kingdom to adapt itself to the new economic developments and changes.

The kingdom has been following the proper path after its success in diversifying its sources of income and developing its industrial and agricultural sectors, he said.

On the other hand, Makridge Boldgian, the former deputy governor of Lebanon's Central Bank, said the measures taken by the Kingdom had enabled it to surpass the adverse impact of the Iraqi aggression on Kuwait.

Yemen

President Salih Meets PRC Vice Foreign Minister

JN2506194595 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother President Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih received PRC Vice Foreign Minister Tian Zengpei today. Vice President 'Abd-Rabbuh Mansur Hadi attended.

The PRC official relayed a message from the PRC leadership to the brother president on bilateral ties, the areas of mutual cooperation, as well as regional and international issues of common interest. He also relayed the congratulations of the general secretary of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee to the brother president and secretary general of the General People's Congress [GPC] on the convening of the fifth GPC's general congress.

The talks touched on bilateral ties and the ways to promote them. The brother president underlined our country's desire to promote the ties of friendship and cooperation with the PRC, which he described as historically traditional. He also commended the Chinese friends' support for the development endeavor in our country.

The meeting was attended by the PRC ambassador to our country.

Memorandum of Understanding Signed

JN2506070795 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 25 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A memorandum of understanding was signed between the Foreign Ministries of Yemen and the PRC in Sanaa yesterday. On behalf of Yemen, the memorandum was signed by Deputy Foreign Minister 'Abdu 'Ali 'Abd-al-Rahman and by Deputy Foreign Minister Tian Zengpei on behalf of the PRC. The memorandum provides for consultations between the two ministries, exchange of expertise in the diplomatic areas, and coordination in other domains.

The signing ceremony was attended by a number of Foreign Ministry officials and the PRC's delegation and ambassador to Yemen.

President Salih Addresses GPC General Congress

JN2506165895 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The fifth general congress of the General People's Congress [GPC] began at the 22 May Hall in the Military College this morning. The congress is held under the slogan of "The Fifth General Congress, a New Takeoff for Developing organizational Structure, Enhancing Democracy, and Building New Yemen."

More than 5,000 GPC members from all parts of the republic attended the meeting. [passage omitted]

Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and GPC secretary general, delivered a speech which he began by welcoming the audience, stressing that the fifth general congress of the GPC will be a distinguished qualitative shift and a new takeoff for the GPC march and an activation of its role in a manner that copes with the national changes and the political action under democracy and political pluralism, and commitment to the peaceful rotation of power. [passage omitted]

Country To Attend Amman Economic Summit

JN2406192295 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Jun 95

[Report by radio correspondent Hasan Mayy in Sanaa]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani has said that his country will participate in the economic summit conference that will be held in Amman next October.

In a statement to Radio Jordan, he said that [Jordanian] Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir invited him to take part in that conference, and that he accepted the invitation. During his visit to Yemen last week, Bin-Shakir expressed hopes of more cooperation and coordination with the Yemeni Government in order to make the Amman economic summit conference successful. Jordan will host the conference on 29 October.

The Yemeni prime minister expressed his country's support for a Middle East market if this market is beneficial to the Arabs, and said: We are with the Arab brothers in anything that is beneficial to them.

He said his country wants inter-Arab relations to be improved, and stressed that Yemen is making efforts toward restoring Arab solidarity. He said President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih discussed this subject with Saudi Monarch King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz during their meeting early this month, and also discussed the restoration of Jordanian-Saudi relations to their previous status.

'Abd-al-Ghani said President Salih intends to visit the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan soon, but said the date of the visit was not decided yet.

The Yemeni prime minister said his country is willing to join the Gulf Cooperation Council, and stressed that Yemen supports Arab groupings. He said: Our security, stability, and interests in Yemen are part of the security, stability, and interests of the Arabian Peninsula and Gulf states.

He said his country is willing to restore normal relations with the State of Kuwait, and hinted that efforts are being made at present to realize this objective.

The fifth general congress of the General People's Congress [GPC], led by President Salih, will begin in the Yemeni capital tomorrow. The congress will be attended by 4,500 delegates.

Radio Jordan learned from a reliable source that the GPC fifth congress will elect President Salih as president of the party. The Yemeni president is currently the secretary general of the GPC, which is the strongest Yemeni party.

Saddam Said Planning Major Changes in Government

NC2306150495 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 23 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to reliable sources, Saddam Husayn is planning to make major changes in his cabinet and in various party and security departments in an attempt to halt the deterioration in state institutions and [words indistinct].

Political analysts who are following events in Iraq expect Saddam to dismiss numerous senior Army officers and senior officials in several critical departments and the security and intelligence services.

The analysts believe these changes will increase Saddam's isolation [words indistinct] on which he used to rely in oppressing the people.

Recent analyses in the foreign press have asserted that Saddam has reached a dead end.

Daily Reveals Iranian Involvement in Abu Gharib

JN2306114795 Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 23 Jun 95 pp 15-17

[Report by Walid Abu-Zahr]

[FBIS Translated Text] Having finished this issue [of the magazine] and laid out its cover, I began preparing for a quiet, relaxing weekend, as everybody does in France. However, certain contacts brought these preparations to a halt. These contacts centered on one question: Something serious was going on in Iraq, but what was it? I must admit that at first glance I thought the reported armed clashes and rebellion in the Abu Gharib area near the Iraqi capital were nothing more than the final chapter of the liquidation of the uprising of the al-Dulaym tribes in the al-Anbar Governorate. These purges were carried out by the Saddam Fedayeen with unprecedented brutality. They were meant to inform anyone with any intention of rising up against the regime that there is a new merciless security agency unmatched by other agencies.

Subsequently, however, there were extremely serious reports of a military rebellion in the Republican Guard and other army garrisons that constitute a "security belt," considered the most loyal to the regime. These reports aroused my suspicions and professional curiosity. I thought: Supposing the expected military coup has actually taken place this time?

Contacts were launched to ascertain exactly what was going on. We stopped the issue going to press so as not to miss the great event. Our reporters in Amman, Cairo, Beirut, London, Paris, and Washington launched efforts to gather information from reliable sources. I spent Saturday and Sunday by the telephone although we usually close the issue on Saturday. I contacted some experts on Iraqi affairs who were abreast with the latest reports. I sifted through a flood of contradictory reports coming from key capitals. Baghdad was denying that anything had taken place, the Iraqi opposition neither confirmed nor denied these reports, and some news agencies reported a military insurrection in the Abu Gharib garrison. In the meantime, Washington was talking about an exchange of fire that had no impact on Saddam Husayn's regime. Some observers even spoke of an attempted military coup, posing serious threats to the regime given that it was staged by the "14 July Battalion" and the al-Anbar Governorate, i.e. the parties that are most loyal to the regime and the regime's second line of defense.

But what actually happened in Abu Gharib? The answer to this question needed much verification of information and sources, especially since past experience had revealed the Iraqi regime's "misinformation" capabilities, and the lack of credibility of the Iraqi opposition and even some international and diplomatic sources, such as the Voice of America, vis-a-vis their reports on Iraq.

Once again, the lack of credibility of some sources was proved. The information we managed to obtain from quarters that have close Iraqi contacts and strong international, political, and security relations indicate that what happened in Abu Gharib was neither an attempted military coup nor a military insurrection in the ranks of some Republican Guards' units.

The information obtained by AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI confirms that the U.S. official spokesman was not far from the truth when he spoke of "an exchange of fire." What happened was indeed a military move, not by the 14 July Battalion, but by the Saddam Fedayeen battalions, which are led by 'Udayy, Saddam's elder son. Information indicates that the Saddam Battalions began the attack on the Abu Gharib area. It was a bloody military operation. However, this operation did not include the Abu Gharib garrison but rather the areas surrounding it where arms depots belonging to Iraqi opposition elements are located. Clashes took place with these opposition elements, which were wearing Iraqi military uniforms. In the 17-minute exchange of fire, the Saddam Fedayeen battalions killed scores of armed elements and arrested a number of others. It was revealed later that these military elements were neither regular troops nor Republican Guards; they were opposition elements disguised in military uniforms.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI has learned from sources that are very close to the Iraqi regime that the "Abu Gharib operation" was not a routine security operation for the Iraqi organs, although it was completed within a few minutes. This operation revealed that there was a large-scale plan to destabilize the regime. At the same time, it signaled the start of a plan to protect Saddam Husayn, with Iranian participation.

Reports confirmed that the uncovering of the Abu Gharib arms depots was the first fruit of the draft strategic alliance Iranian envoy 'Ali Khoram [adviser to the Iranian foreign minister] offered Baghdad a few weeks ago. These reports indicated that the Iranians, who now find themselves in greater need of a strategic alliance with Iraq than the latter so as to cope with the U.S. "dual containment" policy and Washington's plans to isolate Iran, have chosen to "entice" Saddam Husayn into this alliance by offering him cooperation in the areas that are most important and sensitive to the Iraqi president. They decided to offer him a goodwill gesture that goes beyond helping him violate the trade sanctions or repatriating prisoners of war. They decided to offer him help where he most needs it: To help him save himself and his regime. They are well aware that this is the basic preoccupation of the Iraqi president.

In late May, when the Iranian Foreign Ministry's adviser was negotiating with the Iraqi Foreign Ministry's under secretary on ways to resolve the outstanding bilateral issues that have remained unresolved since the eight-year war, a senior official of the Revolutionary Guards, who was a member of the Iranian delegation, was meeting an adviser to Qusayy Saddam Husayn, official in charge of the Special Forces and Presidential Security. Qusayy's adviser was surprised by the Iranian official, who went to great lengths to stress the need for security cooperation between the two states and its importance to both sides at this point. The Iranian official promised that Tehran would be the first to initiate moves in this regard if everything went as planned. "You will be surprised how helpful we can be to you," the Iranian official maintained.

Less than two weeks after the Iranian delegation's visit to Baghdad, the Iranian Revolutionary Guards official returned to the Iraqi capital on a lightning visit, during which he met with Qusayy's adviser and handed him what he had promised. Qusayy's adviser was surprised by a long list including exciting details of the activities carried out by Iraqi opposition elements and a map showing the areas in which arms were stockpiled. The list also included the names of several Iraqi soldiers, officers, and security officials who were working against the regime and maintaining connections with foreign agencies through the expatriate opposition. Given the seriousness of the documents presented to him, Qusayy's adviser contacted his boss, demanding an urgent meeting to hand him the "Iranian list."

On the evening of that day, the Presidential Palace in Baghdad saw an emergency meeting held under Saddam Husayn and attended by the elite group that is controlling Iraqi affairs; namely, Qusayy Saddam Husayn, 'Udayy Saddam Husayn, Husayn Kamil Hasan, 'Abd Hamid Hammud, 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, and the commander of the Republican Guards.

The conferees discussed the penetration of the military establishment and security bodies, which would pose a real threat if it were to increase. Saddam Husayn was the first to call for expeditiously ending this manifestation and for harshly punishing the agents and the fifth column. Defense Minister 'Ali Hasan al-Majid immediately said he was ready to dispatch trusted units from the army and the Republican Guard to teach these elements a lesson, purge the security bodies of them, and expeditiously liquidate them. But, Saddam Husayn rejected this offer saying: We should not give this issue more attention than it deserves. Also, it is undesirable to involve the armed forces in our domestic affairs as this may lead to war among Army units. Blocs and alliances might be formed within the Army that would endanger the unity of the military establishment. Saddam Husayn also refused to have the Republican Guard involved in secondary domestic issues, stressing that the Republican Guard should only be used to counter serious threats to the regime or to confront major coups against it. Addressing Qusayy, Saddam said: I believe it would be better if this issue was solved in cooperation with 'Udayy as soon as possible. He went on to say: It is no longer permissible to show leniency toward anyone. We should teach them a lesson they will not forget, and it will be an example to others. This also should apply to the traitors and agents who are abroad and believe they are safe and out of reach. They will pay the price this time, and we will know how to deal with the countries which protect them.

Qusayy and 'Udayy met after this and decided to entrust the task to Saddam's Fedayeen battalions, particularly that the new battalions and 'Udayy wanted to share in the protection of the regime and in imposing their control on the Iraqi people. These battalions have been trained to be blindly loyal to Saddam and 'Udayy and to meticulously carry out their orders without any emotion.

At dawn the next day, Saddam's Fedayeen battalions began arresting all those whose names were on the Iranian list in all the Iraqi areas which are still under the control of the regime, and raided the weapons depots. Many of the weapons impounded had been stolen from military barracks while others were smuggled into the country by Iran. Many Iraqi army military uniforms were also found in these weapons depots, which the Iraqi opposition members used to wear when setting up road blocks after dark in some areas, even in areas close to Baghdad.

Information on hand confirms that Saddam was worried at the size of the penetration of the military establishment and security bodies in spite of the tight intelligence control and the periodic purging operations and at the quantities of the weapons that were impounded. This made him respond with force, particularly since the Sunni tribes and many of the ranking officers who are well known for their loyalty to the regime had become involved in this penetration.

Despite the regime's success, thanks to the Iranian support, in the large-scale purging operation, the Iraqi president decided to expedite the implementation of a preventive plan to block the road to any similar attempts in the future.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI has learned that the plan to deal a blow against all of the opposition depends on a deal that was concluded among Baghdad, Tehran, and some Kurdish factions. Those who are acquainted with this plan expect the areas which are not under the Iraqi regime's control to be the scene of large-scale disturbances and armed clashes.

The internal Kurdish front is expected to flare up soon after Baghdad has intensified the smuggling of arms to the Talabani group in the north. As for southern Iraq, disturbances are expected in the Shiite areas, which will result in the Iraqi forces carrying out wide repression and liquidation designed to deal an almost fatal blow to the opposition there.

Since last week, circles in the Shiite opposition in southern Iraq have begun to express concern over the Iraqi-Iranian rapprochement. Some circles even talked about a deal which Tehran reached with Baghdad. The southern areas in Iraq will pay the price of this deal. Perhaps, this was behind the panic which befell the Iraqi opposition or the opponents who sought refuge with Iran.

According to western security information, which has sources in Iraq, Saddam Husayn has ordered that opponents residing abroad be chased. This information states that, in the past, the Iraqi president used to belittle the opposition activities abroad and considered the opposition moves as being worthless and no more than propaganda that lacked any international credibility and that did not create any internal repercussions. However, the recent moves inside Iraq as well as the spread of the opposition to include the military and security establishments have convinced Saddam Husayn that the opposition abroad has begun to coordinate with international circles that seek to destabilize and overthrow the regime. Thus, the opposition abroad has become troublesome, which requires a different way of dealing with it.

According to well-informed security sources, Saddam Husayn ordered that a wave of chasing and assassination of opposition symbols abroad be carried out. These sources said that Iraqi contacts were held in the past few days with extremist Islamic elements who have wide networks in Europe and some Arab and western states. These elements were asked to accomplish this mission.

This information adds that Iraqi officials held contacts with Shaykh Hasan al-Turabi, leader of the Sudanese National Islamic Front, to request his help. However, al-Turabi was eager not to join this deal. He pointed out that the Americans are keeping an eye on him these days and that "they are awaiting a suitable opportunity to punish Sudan."

Al-Turabi was content with guiding the Iraqis to the best and most active extremist Islamic cells in the West. However, several western security services have begun to closely watch the completion of the "great deal" between Baghdad and Tehran to learn whether this mutual security cooperation will reach the level of exchanging services concerning international terrorism. This will be revealed in the coming few days and weeks when the secret negotiations and the barter deal between the two countries have been completed.

Two Regime Collaborators Said Executed in Kurdistan

NC2306151295 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 23 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Two agents of Saddam Husayn's intelligence services have been executed in Iraqi Kurdistan after being convicted of poisoning opposition figures and Iraqi Army personnel who fled to northern Iraq.

The executed men were members of the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP], who were acting as collaborators for the regime's intelligence services.

Under interrogation they confessed that they used thallium to poison people living in northern Iraq whose names appeared on a list supplied by the Baghdad regime.

The two agents killed several people by mixing thallium with their tea. Several others were saved by swift medical treatment in London and Damascus.

Several other suspects accused of the same offense are awaiting trial in the north.

Tsochev Leads Bulgarian Economic Team to Baghdad

JN2306201895 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiril Tsochev, Bulgarian deputy prime minister and minister of trade and foreign economic cooperation, arrived in Baghdad this evening. He is leading a delegation on a visit to the country lasting several days.

In a statement to the Iraqi News Agency, Tsochev said this visit is part of joint cooperation in the trade and economic fields and aims to discuss ways to promote this cooperation. He stressed the need to lift the blockade imposed on Iraq as soon as possible, especially since Iraq has fulfilled its commitments regarding the UN Security Council resolutions.

Tsochev pointed out that Bulgaria was also affected by the blockade imposed on Iraq because it had large trade and industrial links with Iraq. Prior to the blockade, Iraq was one of Bulgaria's largest marketing outlets, he added.

Meets MIO Chief

JN2406160595 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1500 GMT 24 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 24 Jun (INA) — The 22d session of the joint Iraqi-Bulgarian committee for economic, trade, and technical cooperation, which will last two days, opened here today. The Iraqi side was led by Staff General Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and minerals and supervisor of the Military Industrialization Organization [MIO], while the Bulgarian side was led by Kiril Tsochev, Bulgarian deputy prime minister and minister of trade and external economic relations.

The Iraqi side included Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, foreign minister; Ahmad Murtada Ahmad, transport and communications minister; Staff Lieutenant General Engineer 'Amir Muhammad Rashid, director of the MIO; several advisers at the Republic Presidency; the two under secretaries of the Ministry of Industry and Minerals; and a number of officials. The Bulgarian side included Kliment Vuchev, minister of industry; Philip Ashkiov [name as transliterated], adviser to the Bulgarian prime minister; the two under secretaries of the Ministries of Trade and Finance; and several officials in the Ministries of Trade, Industry, Construction and Finance.

Staff Gen. Husayn Kamil Hasan delivered a speech in which he asserted Iraq's eagerness to promote economic and trade cooperation between Iraq and Bulgaria. He stressed Iraq's readiness to implement joint industrial and construction projects to serve the interests of the friendly peoples of the two countries, which share old friendly relations.

Kiril Tsochev, Bulgarian deputy prime minister and minister of trade and external economic relations, said his country is ready to sign trade and economic contracts to enable Bulgarian firms to resume their activities in Iraq as was the case prior to the unjust blockade.

The Bulgarian official hoped that the blockade will be lifted, saying the blockade has harmed the interests of Bulgaria and many other countries. He noted the there is no longer any justification for the blockade, since Iraq has fulfilled all its obligations toward Security Council resolutions.

The first meeting dealt with ways to activate and promote trade and industrial relations between the two friendly countries. Several working subcommittees were formed on trade, finance, industry, transport, and communications. These subcommittees have started their work. They are chaired by a number of advisers at the Republic Presidency and the under secretaries of the Ministry of Industry and Minerals and Bulgarian officials.

The 21st session of the joint Iraqi-Bulgarian committee for economic, trade, and technical cooperation was held last year in the Bulgarian capital, Sofia.

Hails Reconstruction, Tours Facories

JN2406161695 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1520 GMT 24 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 24 Jun (INA)—Kiril Tsochev, Bulgaria's deputy prime minister and minister of trade and external economic relations, has hailed the comprehensive industrial and construction renaissance which Iraq is witnessing despite the unfair embargo.

During a tour, in which he was accompanied by Staff General Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and minerals and supervisor of the Military Industrialization Organization, to a number of Iraqi facilities and factories, the Bulgarian official hailed the efforts which the Iraqis have exerted to rebuild what was destroyed by the vicious 30-state aggression.

The Bulgarian deputy prime minister and trade minister was briefed by the directors general of the Iraqi facilities and factories on the great achievements scored by the Iraqis despite the embargo by relying on national expertise and local alternatives.

Received by Saddam

JN2506125995 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1215 GMT 25 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 25 Jun (INA) — President Saddam Husayn has received Kiril Tsochev, Bulgarian deputy prime minister and minister of trade and external economic relations and head of the Bulgarian side to the meetings of the 22d session of the joint Iraqi-Bulgarian committee; and Kliment Vuchev, Bulgarian industry minister.

The meeting was attended by Staff General Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and minerals.

Party Talks Focus on Relations

JN2506174695 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1445 GMT 25 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 25 Jun (INA) — Party talks between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the Bulgarian Socialist Party opened in Baghdad today.

Latif Nusayyif Jasim, deputy to the official in charge of the Foreign Relations Bureau of the Iraq Command of the Ba'th Party, headed the Ba'th Party delegation, while the Bulgarian side was led by Philip Ashpikov [name as transliterated], member of the Socialist Party's Supreme Assembly, first adviser to the Bulgarian prime minister, and official in charge of political affairs in the Bulgarian Socialist Party.

The talks addressed ways of enhancing relations between the two countries in all fields in the interest of the two friendly peoples.

The talks were attended by Comrade 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hashimi, director of the Foreign Relations Bureau of the Iraq Command of the Ba'th Party.

Paper Urges UN To Shun 'Suspicious' U.S. Influences

JN2406095295 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0630 GMT 24 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 24 Jun (INA) — The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH urges the UN Security Council [UNSC] to heed Iraq's quest for a fair treatment away from the hostile U.S. pandemonium, particularly since Washington's plot, which is aimed at causing disruption, has become widely known to all honorable persons in the world.

In an article today, the paper notes that the perfidious U.S. propaganda machine has clamored and emitted black venom ahead of each and every periodic review session of the unfair Iraq sanctions held by the UNSC. The U.S. and British archleaders of propaganda and their stooges and hirelings, who are adept at misrepresenting facts, seem to have forgotten that the premise "Continue To Lie Until People Believe You", which is inherited from the hateful colonialist legacy, no longer works. As a matter of fact, the patient Iraqi people have grown accustomed to the discordant drumbeating of hostile trumpets ahead of each and every review session.

The paper asserts that the people of Iraq are well aware of the purposes and objectives of the U.S. plot, which is aimed at bringing about disruption and creating a nebulous state of affairs. Likewise, they are well aware why the Americans chose this particular time to carry out their plot.

The paper stresses that the sanctions are no longer warrantable, and that the perpetuation of the sanctions means that the enemies have gone to the limit in their efforts to starve the Iraqi people. However, the UNSC would be taking a sound course if it were to discharge its responsibilities independently. To do so, it must dissociate itself from the suspicious influences and purposes of the U.S. policy, the paper maintains.

Rabinovich Previews Chiefs of Staff Meeting

TA2406133795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 24 Jun 95

[Telephone interview with Professor Itamar Rabinovich, ambassador to the United States, by Miryam Herschlag; place and date not given — recorded]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Herschlag] Israel's Ambassador to Washington Itamar Rabinovich has been laying the groundwork for the three days of negotiations between Syria's Hikmat al-Shihabi and Israel's Amnon Lipkin-Shahaq. Speaking to Prof. Rabinovich by phone, our first question for him was this: If Israel continues to maintain that Damascus pulls the Hizballah's strings in southern Lebanon, why should it come to the peace table at this time?

[Rabinovich] This is part of the whole agenda. We are discussing with our American counterparts both preparations for the meeting of the chiefs of staff next week, as well as what is happening in the north and the need not only to put an end to the present fighting but to tighten the understandings that we had worked out more than a year ago in order to ascertain that this doesn't happen. And I'm sure that, as is always the case when we meet with Syrians, we do not neglect to deal with this problem as well as part of the larger peace agenda.

[Herschlag] But why should it just be one part? Why not make cessation of hostilities on the northern border a precondition for continuing the talks with the Syrians?

[Rabinovich] The problem with presenting conditions is that you may legislate yourself out of the game. We do not want the other parties to the negotiations to present us with ultimatums and conditions, and we try achieve what we want without presenting conditions and ultimatums. And, I believe that the record thus far has been quite good.

[Herschlag] Is it possible though, Ambassador Rabinovich, that the Syrians believe that stepping up the fighting at this time strengthens their hand in advance of the negotiations?

[Rabinovich] No, I don't believe that this is the case. I think that it would be more a case of their ability to control Hizballah to the last dot, some looseness in the understandings, contradictory versions of what happened. I'm quite certain that Hizballah feeds the Syrians with versions of events that try to put the blame on the SLA [South Lebanese Army] or on us. I think it's more this confusion than a premeditated attempt to up the ante in preparation for the negotiations.

[Herschlag] Just looking at the upcoming meeting between the chiefs of staff of the two countries, what can we expect to come out of these three-day talks?

[Rabinovich] I would hope that we achieve two main goals. One would be to establish a pattern of work, not just between the two chiefs of staff but between the armies or defense establishments as part of the Syrian-Israeli peace track. As you probably remember, there is a second round already determined for the security talks. It will take place next month. Two delegations headed by the Syrian ambassador to Washington and myself, and including military experts other than chiefs of staff, will continue the work begun by the chiefs of staff. Hopefully everything will go well and we'll move into other rounds. But the pattern, to a great extent, will be set or should be set in this meeting.

Secondly, we certainly plan to get into substance. Each side will present its view of security arrangements and the give-and-take that is a necessary part of every negotiations should begin in this meeting and, hopefully, should begin to yield early results. We don't expect to resolve anything in this first meeting, but we certainly would like to see some concrete progress. If these two goals are met, we would regard this as a successful meeting.

[Herschlag] What are likely to be the chief stumbling blocks in these talks?

[Rabinovich] What needs to happen — and this may prove to be difficult — is to translate these very abstract and general principles into a reality. When we discuss issues that refer to geography, such as demilitarization or limited deployment, the value of the nonpaper will be tested.

[Herschlag] You've mentioned, of course, this meeting between the chiefs of staff and then further meetings between military officials, and this brings up another controversy that has come to the fore this past week. Can you respond to criticism that sending an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] general to handle peace negotiations represents a blatant and, some say, dangerous politicization of the army?

[Rabinovich] I don't think that this is the case at all. These are defined as meetings of experts. It is not a pure military meeting. An Israeli diplomat and a Syrian diplomat participate. The American team, likewise, is a mixed team of State Department officials and a general. This has been the case in earlier negotiations when peace was made with Egypt, Israeli military — the name of General Tamir comes immediately to mind — played a very important role in the peace-making process. This is not a novelty. The difficult decisions, the major decisions have been made in this negotiating track, and I believe will continue to be made by the political leadership. I don't really see a problem.

[Herschlag] Just to conclude, Ambassador. You are often asked to be a prophet and give us your crystal-ball predictions, and I'd ask you to do it again. I know you've recently said that you believe there can be some major progress before 1996. What extent of an agreement are you talking about?

[Rabinovich] Let me define the issue. We have a window presently in which a comprehensive Syrian-Israeli agreement is negotiated. The window, I think, will close at some point in early 1996. Nobody knows at exactly what point, but I think those who know the Middle Eastern negotiating scene and the Israeli political arena believe that at some point in early 1996 the window will close. We have several more months ahead of us. Technically speaking, the issues can be negotiated and agreed upon and finalized within this period. This is what the statement meant; namely, an agreement can be finalized within this period. But, to put any percentage on the prospects of it happening or to pinpoint a precise timetable, I think would be ill-advised.

Shahaq Leaves for Talks With Syria in U.S.

TA2506055195 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 25 Jun 95 p 1

[Report by Alon Pinkas and Hillel Kuttler]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Chief of General Staff [CGS] Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahaq will demand that Syria rein in Hizballah at his meeting this week with Syrian Chief of Staff Gen. Hikmat al-Shihabi.

Shahaq left last night for Washington, where he is to begin meetings with al-Shihabi on Tuesday.

A source close to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin last night said Shahaq will tell Shihabi that Israel regards Syria's curbing Hizballah activity as an indication of Damascus's seriousness with regard to a peace treaty. [passage omitted]

Accompanying the CGS to Washington are Maj.-Gen. Dani Yatom, the military secretary to the prime minister, Brig.-Gen. Tzvi Stauber, the head of the strategic planning department at the Planning Branch, and Shahaq's executive officer, Lt.-Col. Shlomi Ma'ayan.

Shahaq met and spoke with Rabin several times over the weekend to finalize Israel's strategy for the talks. According to a senior officer, Shahaq will be authorized only to present Israel's concept of security arrangements in the Golan Heights, and its idea of demilitarization in the Golan and Syrian forces dilution in areas stretching east of the Golan, along the al-Qunaytirah-Damascus road.

"To the best of my knowledge, Shahaq is not expected nor authorized to negotiate security arrangements, but only conclude a mutually agreed agenda for the technical talks between Israeli and Syrian generals, which are scheduled to convene two weeks after the meetings of the chiefs of general staff," the source said. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0400 GMT on 25 June carries a live report by political correspondent Udi Segal adding: "In his talks with Syrian Chief of Staff Hikmat al-Shihabi, Chief of Staff Shahaq will raise the issue of Lebanon. He will tell his Syrian counterpart that Israel expects Damascus to curb Hizballah activity. But let us put things in proportion: Before he left for Washington, Shahaq and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin agreed that the issue will be raised in the meeting, but will not be the main issue on the agenda — not as an issue that might cast a shadow on the resumption of the senior-level negotiations. According to Shahaq's mandate, he will not present the Syrian chief of staff with an ultimatum, nor will he make the continuation of the talks conditional on Syrian activity to stop the terrorists' fire in south Lebanon. He will, however, explain that Israel views the Syrian steps regarding Hizballah as a test of Syria's seriousness in the negotiations."]

Spokesman Comments on Upcoming Syria Talks

NC2506052895 Paris AFP in English 2310 GMT 24 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jerusalem, June 25 (AFP)—Israel and Syria are to resume direct military talks on Tuesday [27 June], overshadowed by a flare-up of cross-border violence and warnings from the Israeli army and guerrillas of a "hot summer" to come.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin pledged the talks between military chiefs-of-staff would go ahead in Washington, despite a Katyusha rocket attack on northern Israel by Hizballah guerrillas Friday which killed one and wounded eight.

But Rabin has urged Syria, the main foreign power broker in Lebanon, to halt the attacks launched from southern Lebanon. Syria "can and must" stop them, he said.

"We know Syria has a lot of influence and we expect them to restrain Hizballah," government spokesman Uri Dromi told AFP.

The United States stepped up contacts with Israeli and Syrian leaders after the latest rocket attack.

State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said that as a result "we believe both sides understand the need to exercise restraint."

Israeli army commanders have threatened to strike at guerrillas to stop the attacks on northern Galilee, even at the risk of hitting Lebanese civilians.

Syria in turn said any escalation of the violence in southern Lebanon would harm the peace process.

And a local Hizballah leader, Shaykh Nabil Kuwayk, pledged the guerrillas were "ready to deal heavier blows to the enemy if it is thinking of making this a hot summer."

Israel's chief-of-staff Amnon Shahaq is to discuss security arrangements to accompany an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Golan Heights during three days of talks with his Syrian counterpart Hikmat al-Shihabi in Washington.

The two countries' ambassadors to the United States will also meet on the sidelines to discuss the scope and timetable of any pullback, as well as a framework for normalising relations.

Syria has insisted any peace deal will have to include an Israeli withdrawal from the southern Lebanon border strip it has occupied since 1978.

Talks between Israel and Lebanon have lain dormant since they were launched in 1991, while Washington has been acting as a go-between to keep negotiations between the Jewish state and Syria alive.

Dromi told AFP: "We are willing to talk to Lebanon about a peaceful solution but first we need to see a serious attempt .... that Lebanon is willing and capable of disarming the militias.

"If this happens then we are willing to consider anything. At the moment we are not even considering to pull out."

Both Israel and Syria have played down the optimism which surrounded the announcement of a resumption of talks earlier in June by US Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

"This is not a breakthrough, it is a continuation of what went before, but we welcome it as any talks are better than nothing," Dromi said.

Meanwhile, the Syrian government daily Al-Thawrah said: "It is premature and exaggerated to say things have started to get going."

Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam warned there was "still a big gap," saying a framework for security arrangements hammered out in May had not reached an accord "on significant points."

A major area of dispute remains the scope of an Israeli withdrawal on the strategic plateau it captured in 1967 and annexed in 1981.

Israeli President 'Ezer Weizman has said that the Jewish state is prepared to pull back to the 1923 international border. But Damascus is demanding a withdrawal to the 1967 ceasefire line, which would give the Syrians slightly more territory.

Rabin has so far only offered a limited, symbolic withdrawal for a three-year period to test Syria's desire for peace.

Israel's ambassador Itamar Rabinovich ruled out an agreement on security arrangements from the meeting, but said it was an important opportunity for both sides to get to know each other.

"We should begin to do some actual work towards closing the gaps... It would be realistic to see some beginning of movement."

Israel was also hoping that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad would agree to upgrade the talks possibly to foreign minister or "preferably heads of state" level, to show Israelis that Syria was serious about peace, Dromi said.

Rabin Tells Cabinet U.S. Says Syria Keeps 'Understandings'

TA2506104695 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 25 Jun 95

[Report by political correspondent Udi Segal outside the Prime Minister's Office — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] Speaking at the weekly cabinet session this morning, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin told the ministers that delays are expected in the signing of the interim agreement on Judaea and Samaria with the Palestinians, and that many issues have not yet been resolved. The negotiations are sensitive and complex, Rabin explained.

Shortly after this, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres left the cabinet session on his way to Gaza. Presently, he is in a meeting Yasir 'Arafat in an attempt to speed up the process and to hear the Palestinian reaction to the Israeli offer to pull out of four West Bank cities in the first stage.

Minister Shulamit Aloni:

[Begin Aloni recording] I hope that by 1 July the issues that are being held up, will be delayed by agreement between the parties. I hope a joint statement will be issued by the Israeli Government and the Palestinian Authority regarding the continuation of the negotiations. [end recording]

Rabin told the ministers that the Syrians made it clear, through the Americans, that they are committed to the understandings made after Operation Accountability, and that this clarification allowed him to send Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq to the Washington meeting with his Syrian counterpart. In the meeting, Rabin said, Shahaq will raise the Lebanese issue.

Minister Efrayim Sne elaborates on the message Shahaq will relay to the Syrian chief of staff:

[Begin Sne recording] If you are serious abo5?war in south Lebanon. [end recording]

Referring to the issue of the SLA [South Lebanese Army], the prime minister explained that he is not blaming the SLA for causing the firing of katyushas at Israel over the weekend. The SLA is in distress, it suffers losses, but we cannot allow shooting into villages contrary to the understandings, Rabin told the cabinet ministers.

Article Views Response to Withdrawal Request

TA2206182795 Jerusalem Government Press Office in English 21 Jun 95

[Article by Ze'ev Schiff from the 21 June edition of HA'ARETZ, page B1: "The 4 June 1967 Trap"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] It was expected that the Syrians would respond to President 'Ezer Weizman's assertion — that Israel's "goal" in the negotiations is the international border separating us from Syria. In other words, Israel aspires to a total withdrawal. The answer given by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' was that this action would be insufficient, and that Syria would insist upon an Israeli withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 Israeli-Syrian border. Simply, Israel must withdraw to the line that existed prior to the Six Day War.

Even before this, prior to the start of detailed negotiations between Israel and Syria, we had already conceded on two other important issues (without receiving anything in return). We conceded the demand for a reduction in forces and their structural change — something that numerous military men viewed as a significant condition. We also unilaterally conceded our demand that the Golan withdrawal involve a protracted process. At first, there was discussion of a phased withdrawal to span eight years. Then, we moved to a five-year timetable. Now, there is talk in Israel (including by the Prime Minister) about a schedule of 3-4 years.

What has al-Asad conceded thus far? He is prepared to discuss a withdrawal that will extend for no longer than 1-1.5 years. He first spoke of only a few months. A second concession that he has actually made allows for an asymmetrical demilitarization of territory on both sides of the border, due to geographic inequalities (which are to the detriment of smaller Israel). This is the opening situation in advance of the detailed negotiations to begin in Washington later this month — when the Israeli and Syrian chiefs-of-staff are to meet.

It has been said that, after al-Asad's last meeting with Warren Christopher and Dennis Ross, the Americans were overly optimistic. It can be said (and this is the impression of many) that they were in awe of al-Asad the man, in light of his serious attention to the matter. But, under no circumstances, can this be translated into optimistic signals pertaining to the actual negotiations — certainly not with regard to issues which Israel views as critical. Moreover, whoever carefully listens to the Americans can discern their emphasis of the fact that the Syrians are demonstrating a more aggressive attitude than would be apparent. They are very obstinate concerning an Israeli presence at an early warning station on Mount Hermon. As well, their approach to normalization (following the first stage of the withdrawal) is widely divergent from the Israeli view. When they were half-jokingly asked about the possibility of leaving the developed Israeli wine industry on the Golan, the Syrians gave this serious consideration and said "absolutely not."

One of the crucial issues relates to the Syrian demand that Israel withdraw to the 4 June 1967 border, and not the international line. This demand contains an extremely dangerous trap. Many view this as a manifestation of Syria's desire to regain control of the al-Hammah enclave — which was part of Mandatory Eretz Yisra'el — or to return to demilitarized zones, but this Syrian aspiration is much broader.

In order to understand the nature of this trap, one must be recall the geographic situation on the eve of the Six Day War. Even in the 1950s and 1960s, the Syrians tried to erase the international border, by removing all its markings (in order to demonstrate that they did not recognize it). In addition to taking control over the al-Hammah enclave, the Syrians also deviated from the international border in the region of the non-demilitarized area near the Sea of Galilee.

They actually took control of the narrow 10-meter strip between the international border and the Sea of Galilee (in the northeast), north of 'En Gev. In other words, they were actually situated on water's edge. They disturbed Israeli fisherman, and claimed that the Israelis were forbidden to approach their coastline beyond a 250-meter limit. They also expanded their control to the Jordan River, in the part coming down from Benot Ya'aqov to the Sea of Galilee; this had been a few hundred meters-wide demilitarized zone just east of the River.

If we allow the Syrians to return to the 4 June 1967 lines, this would mean that they will sit on the northeastern shore of the Sea of Galilee — and not a few dozen meters away. Such permission would also bring them to the bank of the Jordan River (in a section of about 15 kilometers). As soon as Syria becomes a country positioned on the banks of the Sea of Galilee and the Jordan River, it will have rights there. It is no coincidence that the 1923 international border does not run along the Sea of Galilee's shore. The intention was that the entire lake is part of the Land of Israel, and that the Syrians have no part. Allowing the Syrians to sit on its banks would also grant them rights — which they adamantly demand.

This is the trap. Even in al-Hammah, the territorial issue does not interest them; what they want is to sit right on the al-Yarmuk River, and to keep Israel away. In other words, the water issue figures prominently here as well. Under no circumstances can we fall into this trap, and it is of paramount importance that Israeli negotiators are instructed in this manner. Failure in this regard will be more costly than losing on the security arrangements issue.

Message Relayed on 'Red Line' Crossed in Lebanon

TA2306184595 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 23 Jun 95

[Studio talk between Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari and moderator Yisra'el Segal]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Segal] Northern Israel is now quiet. At this very moment, the Syrian chief of staff is conferring with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports that Israel relayed a message [not further specified] to the effect that it has reached the red line. Why is the area in such turmoil?

[Ya'ari] The Syrians apparently want to walk into the talks between the chiefs of staff in Washington with their heads held up high. That is why they are not stopping Hizballah's aggressive retaliation policy and why President al-Asad conspicuously sent the Syrian vice president to Iran, now of all times, while tomorrow a court in Beirut might sentence Samir Ja'ja', the man seen as the symbol of Christian cooperation with Israel, to death.

This evening, too, Hizballah leaders threatened to fire Katyushas at the Galilee in response to any firing by SLA [South Lebanese Army] at Lebanese villages, as they did this morning. [passage omitted]

Based on the understandings reached at the end of Operation Accountability two years ago, Hizballah has been pursuing a policy of violent observance of the clause in which Israel undertook not to attack civilian locations in south Lebanon. Careless firing by the SLA in response to the attacks on them is what triggered the recent salvos of Katyushas and the issue discussed today in consultations held in the prime minister's bureau. [passage omitted]

Lubrani Warns of Retaliation for Hizballah Shelling

TA2506181895 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 25 Jun 95

[Qobi Marenko video report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Uri Lubrani, coordinator of government activities in Lebanon, today warned that Israel would soon sharply retaliate for Hizballah katyusha shelling. Talking to our correspondent Qobi Marenko, Lubrani lifted from the South Lebanese Army [SLA] the responsibility for the latest conflagration in the north.

[Begin Lubrani recording] There are sometimes incidents provoked by Hizballah shelling. We have to do all we can to make sure the SLA does not violate the understandings. Sometimes it works and sometimes it does not. I do not think we can restrain them totally. We should not blame them for what is happening there. The IDF sometimes also fires in an uncontrolled way. That happens in war. Therefore, things should be seen in the right proportions. The SLA should not be given the feeling that it is responsible for all the attacks since that is not so. Those responsible for the attacks are the forces which receive inspiration, arms, and equipment from Iran and permission from Syria. [end recording]

Rabin Orders IDF Soldiers To Deploy in SLA Outposts

TA2506052495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 25 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Rabin, in his capacity as defense minister, has ordered IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops to be deployed in SLA [South Lebanese Army] outposts in south Lebanon to oversee SLA activities and to make sure no excuses are given to Hizballah to fire Katyushas at northern Israel.

IDF sources say the problem was with lack of discipline by some junior soldiers, and not by senior officers. At the same time it was stressed that Hizballah was firing from within villages and hiding behind the civilian population.

Security sources said Hizballah was aiming at increased tension on the northern border before progress is made in the peace talks between Israel and Syria.

Peres on Meeting With 'Arafat, Redeployment

TA2606061095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 26 Jun 95

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by correspondent Yoram Ronen; place not given — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Ronen] Good morning to Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

[Peres] Good morning.

[Ronen] Let me get this straight. Will you reach an agreement on an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] withdrawal from four cities: Janin, Nabulus, Tulkarm, and Qalqilyah by Saturday, 1 July?

[Peres] I never said that.

[Ronen] I am asking whether that is what will happen?

[Peres] No. We are making an effort to wrap up the negotiations by 1 July. This does not mean that there will be any concrete steps on the ground aside from the conclusion of the negotiations process itself.

[Ronen] The question is whether these understandings will include a detailed agreement on the IDF's withdrawal from four towns in Judaea and Samaria?

[Peres] We will report this over the media as soon as we reach agreement. For the time being, we have not reached agreement on all the issues, and negotiations are being held on three different levels. One level is the elections, and the second deals with early empowerment, while the third pertains to the IDF's redeployment. Significant progress has been made on all levels; however, we have still not finalized anything, and until the issue is wrapped up I refuse to disclose any details.

[Ronen] Not much time is left before 1 July.

[Peres] Yes, we are working intensively every day. Look, if the Palestinians agree, then four days are enough. If they do not agree, then even four months will not suffice. It is not only a question of work; it is also a question of agreement.

[Ronen] The question is whether we are prepared to meet the Palestinians and the PLO halfway. They are demanding a detailed timetable for the IDF's pullout from all the West Bank towns by November or December.

[Peres] I am not sure whether that is what they seek.

[Ronen] Did you not hear such a demand from Yasir 'Arafat yesterday?

[Peres] No, not necessarily. Both parties agree that Israel will redeploy outside of populated areas in order to permit elections to be held without an IDF presence. We intend to implement this as promised. Incidentally, I would like to tell you something. I hear the opposition making various claims. Let me quote from the Camp David accords which expressly stipulate a transitional period of no more than five years in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip with the aim of granting full autonomy to the residents. According to these agreements, there will be a pullout by the Israeli Military Government which will be subsequently replaced by a self-administration authority elected by the residents of the territories in free elections. Moreover, the Camp David accords state that the parties will negotiate an agreement specifying the powers and responsibilities of the self- administration authority in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. The Israeli armed forces will withdraw, while those forces remaining in specified security areas will carry out a redeployment. A strong local police force will be established. All this was agreed upon in Camp David. I do not know whether or not the opposition has stopped reading the agreements it signed.

[Ronen] I would like to ask you a couple more questions in closing, Foreign Minister Peres. How will Israel protect the Jewish settlements in the areas the IDF pulls out of? After all, sooner or later — if not on 1 July, then a week or two later — the IDF will pull out of Nabulus, Janin, Tulkarm, and Qalqilyah. What will happen with the Jewish settlements there?

[Peres] Look, permit me to reply frankly. I recall that when we left the Gaza Strip there were all these dire warnings that Katyusha rockets would be hurtled from Gaza at Ashqelon and Ashdod. Was even one Katyusha fired? Wherever we place ourselves, it will constitute the border between us and the Palestinians or the Arabs. Wherever we draw the line, there will always be border settlements. What are these people proposing? I believe that once a Palestinian authority is elected it will be capable of preventing terrorist attacks. I think that the present Palestinian Authority [PA] is trying to prevent terrorism and has achieved some results. Nevertheless, the IDF will continue to protect our settlements everywhere. We have no intention of dismantling the IDF but rather intend to maintain its strength, capabilities, and responsibilities. This is not some hapless force but rather an army capable of defending us.

[Ronen] Do you not share the concern expressed by several mayors from the Samaria area, including the mayor of Kfar Saba who comes from your own party who wondered about what would happen once the IDF is pulled out and Kfar Saba is perhaps turned into a border settlement.

[Peres] But you can say the same thing about Metulla or any other border settlement. You can say the same thing about Elat. This has no end.

[Ronen] One last question Minister Peres. What about the release of the Palestinian security prisoners. When will they be freed?

[Peres] The ministerial committee on the release of prisoners will convene on 29 June because very thorough preparatory work is called for. If we indeed reach an agreement by 1 July — which is what we hope and are trying for, so far without any certainty of success — then it will also include the release of prisoners.

[Ronen] Thank you very much Foreign Minister Peres.

Olmert Said Contemplating Orient House Closure

TA2406181395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 24 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert said that in the wake of the clashes at noon today near Orient House between demonstrators and the security forces he is contemplating the possibility of closing down the building. Such a drastic measure is unavoidable, Olmert told our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky. He added that he had recently received several legal opinions saying that the building, which is in effect being used today by the Palestinian Authority, can be closed down.

The Palestinians today staged big demonstrations in support of the struggle of the security prisoners. A rally organized by all Palestinian factions was held in Gaza's stadium. At the Kefar Darom junction, Palestinians threw stones at Israeli border policemen and Palestinian policemen. The latter fired into the air to disperse the demonstrators.

In Nabulus, two IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers were lightly injured by objects thrown at them as they were dispersing a demonstration. A border policeman was injured in Ramallah. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that demonstrations also took place in East Jerusalem, Tulkarm, Janin, and Hebron. In some towns, IDF soldiers arrested demonstrators.

Aloni Critical of Olmert Position

TA2506103895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 25 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert says he must use the authority given him by law and close down Orient House, because the Palestinians themselves admit that this is their government house. Mr. Olmert told Qol Yisra'el he has received a legal opinion stating he is authorized to close down Orient House.

In reaction, Minister Shulamit Aloni said Ehud Olmert would be acting foolishly if he goes ahead without coordinating with the government and contrary to its policy. Minister Aloni emphasized that the government has already determined that Orient House is not an official PLO governmental body, and that there is no point in trying to scare the public about this issue.

Ziyad Abu-Zayyad, one of the Palestinian leaders in Jerusalem, said that Mr. Olmert is acting out of political motives and has no authority to evacuate Orient House. He said that the Palestinians will not obey a closure order and will use all means to preserve their rights.

Shahal: No Prisoners 'With Blood on Hands' To Be Released

TA2506052695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 25 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Police Minister Moshe Shahal says the date for the meeting of the ministerial committee on the release of Palestinian prisoners has been called for Thursday [29 June].

In an interview with Qol Yisra'el, Minister Shahal said the committee will consider the release of prisoners who had been involved in disturbances and have completed approximately two thirds of their sentences. At the same time, Shahal emphasized that no prisoners with blood on their hands will be released.

Policeman, 14 Arabs Wounded in East Jerusalem

TA2406121095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 24 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A border policeman and 14 Arabs were wounded in East Jerusalem during a procession in solidarity with Palestinian prisoners. Our police affairs correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that the marchers stopped near Orient House and started pelting the policemen with stones and bottles. Some of them even walked into Orient House and threw stones and bottles from the building. Israel Police and Border Police troops fired rubber bullets and detained some of the demonstrators. The area is now quiet.

The ministerial committee discussing the release of Palestinian prisoners will meet next weekend at the prime minister's instructions. The committee's work was adjourned a few months ago following a major terrorist attack. The committee will decide which Palestinian prisoners will be released.

The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] prevented dozens of Peace Now members from entering Janin to meet Fatah representatives in the city. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that the Peace Now members held a rally by an IDF roadblock near Janin and drove back.

Clashes in West Bank Towns; 4 Wounded

TA2406141995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 24 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinian sources say that violent clashes took place today in several towns in the West Bank between IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers and Palestinians staging demonstrations in solidarity with the security prisoners. The sources told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that the demonstrations took place in Ramallah, Tulkarm, Janin, Nabulus, and Hebron. According to these sources, the demonstrators threw stones and the IDF dispersed them with rubber bullets and tear gas. Four demonstrators were injured, two in Ramallah and another two in Nabulus.

The IDF spokesman said in response that the matter is being checked.

Armed 'Terrorist' Killed in Clash With IDF

TA2406140995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 24 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An armed terrorist was killed and a second one was caught in a clash with IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers in the Jordan Valley this morning. It is believed that the squad consisted of three terrorists, and searches continue in the area.

Our correspondents Gil Litman and Karmela Menashe report that the infiltration from Jordan was detected early this morning north of Kibbutz Argaman. The IDF launched wide-scale searches and caught a terrorist carrying a gun. A second terrorist carrying a Kalashnikov rifle was killed in the exchange of fire. Highway No. 90 was closed for the duration of the searches and a curfew was imposed on the Arab villages in the area. Later the highway was reopened.

Romanian Prime Minister Pays Official Visit

Holds Talks With Bin-Shakir

JN2506180595 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Official Jordanian-Romanian talks began at the Prime Ministry today between Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir and Romanian Prime Minister Nicolae Vacaroiu.

At the outset of the talks, Prime Minister Zayd Bin-Shakir made a statement in which he welcomed Romanian Prime Minister Nicolae Vacaroiu and members of the accompanying delegation. He said he hoped this visit would be useful and produce positive results for the two friendly countries.

His excellency said: While celebrating the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, we stress the importance of the continuation of bilateral cooperation and of promoting it in all fields.

The prime minister added that both countries believe that resolving problems among states should take place through peaceful means, dialogue, and discussion, stressing that it was important that the Middle East region, in which Romania has been showing interest for a long time, become a region of peace, stability, and development.

His excellency added: We are employing all our energies in this country to improve our people's conditions so that we will be able to face the next century and its challenges.

In his statement, his excellency noted: Jordan emphasizes that there should be a solution to the Iraqi crisis and the Iraqi people's problem, especially since we believe that the Iraqi people have fallen victim to the blockade, and we can feel the suffering of these people.

Turning to the Jordanian-Israeli treaty, his excellency said: In this regard, I recall that your country has played a role in creating the right atmosphere to achieve what we have achieved. He said that the treaty has created a new atmosphere throughout the entire region.

His excellency said: We hope that we will be able to resume joint action and cooperation on the level of services and the private sector to reactivate trade and encourage investment in both countries in the interest of the Jordanian and Romanian peoples.

The Romanian prime minister praised His Majesty King Husayn's principled stands toward serving the region's issues, and his continuous efforts to achieve peace and stability. He also praised the signing of the peace treaty between Jordan and Israel.

He said that Romania supports any initiatives that would contribute to settling all the unresolved problems in the region and achieving a lasting peace.

The Romanian prime minister praised the historic and traditional relations between the two friendly countries, stressing that his country will do all it can to promote these relations in all areas, particularly the commercial and economic fields which are of interest to the two countries' peoples.

He expressed hope that dialogue and the exchange of visits will continue between the two countries on all levels. He invited the prime minister to visit Romania.

He stressed the importance of promoting mutual trust among the two countries' businessmen and private sectors. In this regard, he pointed to the large number of joint Jordanian-Romanian companies, something which reflects the extent of cooperation between the private sectors in the two countries.

Attending the talks on the Jordanian side were 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al- Rawabidah, deputy prime minister and education minister; the ministers of finance, foreign affairs, transport, health, planning, industry and trade, and tourism; and the Jordanian ambassador in Bucharest. On the Romanian side, the talks were attended by ministers of transport, trade, finance, health, and public works; the Romanian ambassador in Amman; and a crowd of Romanian businessmen representing various economic, commercial, and financial sectors.

Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir had earlier met with the Romanian prime minister at the Prime Ministry for some time. They exchanged opinions and ideas on the prospects and means of promoting relations between the two friendly countries in all fields, in addition to a number of issues of joint interest. [passage omitted]

Received by King Husayn

JN2506185695 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn received Romanian Prime Minister Nicolae Vacaroiu at Raghadan Palace today. The Romanian prime minister conveyed to his majesty a written message from the Romanian president.

Vacaroiu expressed his country's appreciation for His Majesty King Husayn's wisdom and courage, and praised his majesty's continuous efforts to achieve a comprehensive peace in the region to enable its people to pursue their march of development and construction and achieve a decent standard of living.

Vacaroiu expressed his country's admiration for the Jordanian democratic march, and said that his country is looking forward to contributing to promoting ties of cooperation between Europe and this region's people in order to reinforce the chances of development in an atmosphere of security and stability.

The two sides discussed bilateral relations, and stressed the need to promote them in all fields, particularly in the fields of trade and energy.

His Majesty King Husayn has decorated the Romanian prime minister with the first class al-Nahdah medal. His majesty also hosted a luncheon in honor of the guest prime minister and the delegation accompanying him, which was attended on the Jordanian side by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan; Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir; the ministers of foreign affairs, transport, industry and trade, health, planning, and tourism; and the Jordanian ambassador in Romania.

Al-Kabariti on Upgrading Ties With Arab Nations

JN2506103895 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 25 Jun 95 p 32

[Report by Nabil al-Ghazzawi]

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti has said that cementing and upgrading Jordan's Arab relations is a top priority of Jordanian diplomacy and that Jordan's primary option is an Arab one. He emphasized that Jordan supports the revival of joint Arab action and believes in the principles of the Arab League and pan-Arab security.

Al-Kabariti was answering a question by AL-DUSTUR on the recent statements made by Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih on the efforts being exerted to restore relations between Jordan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

He said: In his statements, His Excellency President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has revealed a Saudi desire to cleanse the Arab atmosphere and turn over a new leaf. He added: Jordan has stressed on many occasions that boosting Arab relations is a priority for the Jordanian diplomacy. Our primary option is an Arab one with all its political, economic, and security dimensions.

Al-Kabariti noted that the security of the Arabian Gulf states is a natural stretch of our national security and that every iota of land of the United Arab Emirate's islands, the Golan, and Lebanon is as dear and important as our dear soil.

He went on to say: We in Jordan have missed no opportunity to express our appreciation and gratitude to Arab countries, spearheaded by Saudi Arabia, for the support extended to us. We also thank them for the services extended to our citizens who work there. We seek to establish distinguished relations based on mutual confidence and respect with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and all Arab states.

Al-Kabariti added: We will spare no effort to restore cohesion and build confidence. He voiced his confidence that Jordan will succeed in this endeavor and that future relations will be better and stronger and that we will all remain brothers supporting each other.

Answering a question on his expected visit to Gaza, al-Kabariti said that he will pay an official visit to Gaza shortly after a permanent site for the Jordanian mission to the Palestinian National Authority has been found.

Daily Hails Efforts To Boost Ties

JN2506110495 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 25 Jun 95 pp 1, 29

[Editorial: "Jordan's Primary Option Is Arab One"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Commenting on Yemeni reports on the efforts being exerted to restore Jordanian-Saudi relations to normal, [Jordanian] Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti has said that Jordan supports reviving joint Arab action and boosting relations with all brethren. He stressed that Jordan's primary option is an Arab one. This is not the first time Jordan has welcomed such positive reports regarding inter-Arab relations.

Ranking Jordanian officials have restated in several occasions that upgrading Jordan's relations with sister states is a top priority for the Jordanian diplomacy.

Jordan has not wavered, under all circumstances, in its historical and firmly-established conviction that the security of the Arabian Gulf countries is a natural stretch of Jordan's national security and that every iota of the Arabian islands in the Gulf, the Golan, Lebanon, and Palestine is as a important as Jordan's national soil.

Based on this firm conviction, Jordan has missed no opportunity to express its deep appreciation and gratitude to Arab fraternal countries for the assistance they have extended throughout the past years. Leading these countries is the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which is hosting our citizens who work there, takes care of them, and treats them with confidence and respect.

In light of all of this, Jordan will stop at nothing to restore the previous status of relations and build fraternal and sincere confidence with all its Arab brethren with whom it shares a common future. No one can set himself free from this future or disregard its objective realities, for these realities are not restricted to the past or the present but rather encompass the forthcoming Arab era which will see more cohesion and be brighter than it is now.

Editorial Favors Accelerating Syrian-Israeli Talks

JN2506113695 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic
25 Jun 95 p 19

[Editorial: "The Benefits of Accelerating Peace Agreements"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Syrian Chief of Staff Hikmat al-Shihabi and Israeli Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq will begin intensive meetings on Tuesday [27 June], with the aim of resuming Syrian-Israeli talks. Both officials will discuss the security arrangements, which would be contained in the expected agreement between the two parties in the next few months.

Despite the importance of these talks between both countries' chiefs of staff, the talks represent only one step on the path of the negotiations which will resume on the military and political levels a few days following the three-day meetings of the two countries' chiefs of staff.

Despite the fact that there are many details which will be discussed by the two parties in the coming stage, the reasons of optimism that a peace treaty between Syria and Israel will be achieved soon depend on the size and influence of U.S. presence in the ongoing talks between the two sides.

In light of the reports on U.S. President Bill Clinton's intention to visit the region in the coming months to participate in the signing of the expected peace agreement between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, it has become clear that reaching an agreement between the two sides has been decided and that the talks only deal with security details, withdrawal arrangements from the Golan, and normalization.

Maintaining a momentous U.S. role to invigorate the negotiations between the two sides and playing the same momentous role on the Palestinian and Lebanese tracks will expedite the achievement of a comprehensive peace. Without a comprehensive peace, all security, stability, and regional cooperation plans will be subject to all possibilities of obstruction and delay.

Since all concerned parties in the region have decided to resort to peace since the Madrid conference, and since the United States and the entire international community have opted for supporting and sponsoring peacemaking in the region, accelerating new steps on the path of signing final treaties will ultimately be in the interest of the people in the region who are, impatiently, waiting to harvest the fruits of peace and comprehensive development in a climate of security and stability.

Buwayz Notes 'Optimism,' 'Caution' on Peace

NC2306182295 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 23 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has declared that the current stage of negotiations between Syria and Israel is crucial, involving both optimism and caution.

He noted that there is caution, fearing that the negotiations might stop, be deadlocked, or fail entirely. He remarked that the optimism is based on some steps having been taken, even if they are insufficient.

In an interview with the al-Sharq radio station, Buwayz declared that Lebanon will not sign a peace agreement outside the context of Arab solidarity and UN Security Council Resolution 242.

Emphasizing that Lebanon is prepared to discuss the implementation of Resolution 425, he said the Israeli actions in south Lebanon are a double-edged sword.

Hizballah's Qasim on Prospect of Israeli Operation

NC2306182895 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Hizballah Deputy Secretary General Shaykh Na'im Qasim has stressed that Hizballah will not hesitate to shell Israel if the Lebanese villages come under Israeli bombardment. In a telephone interview, Shaykh Qasim said he believes it is unlikely things will get as bad as they were in July 1993.

[Begin Qasim recording] We consider ourselves to be in a state of confrontation with the enemy. We can expect anything from this enemy. We must be ready for any eventuality. But will the current aggressive acts produce a large-scale operation, as happened in July 1993? I believe there is no clear answer. The issue depends on the political fruit Israel will reap through the escalation. Perhaps this fruit is not available right now. But we must be vigilant. [end recording]

Hizballah Leader on Retaliation for Attacks

NC2506092295 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 25 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Shaykh Na'im Qasim, Hizballah deputy secretary general, has stated that if civilians are attacked, we must retaliate by firing Katyusha rockets at northern Palestine to deter the Zionists from attacking civilians. He noted that if this type of aggression ends, the operations that oppose the occupiers and their supporters will continue normally, because we are opposing an occupation of our land, which will only end by force and by confronting the unjust military presence.

Shaykh Qasim pointed out that Katyusha rockets are a weapon we use to defend villages and civilians. It is not one of the methods the Islamic Resistance uses in daily field confrontation. He added: The enemy, the United States, and the whole world knows full well that it is the enemy who initiates the acts of aggression. Also, the Resistance will not accept any pretexts about undisciplined individuals within the Agent militia [South Lebanese Army], erroneous acts by the enemy, or about protective measures. He said all these pretexts absolutely do not concern us; all that concerns us is that the civilians and the villages must exist in peace so that no rockets will be fired at north Palestine.

Hizballah Comments on Rabin's 'Accusations'

NC2606061795 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 26 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Islamic sources have stated that enemy Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's accusations against the Agent militias [South Lebanese Army], that they have involved the Zionist entity in problems and have created tension in the south, mean Israel is trying to delude the world into believing that it is innocent of attacks against civilians in the south. Israel is also trying to delude the world into believing that it is committed to not harming civilians and to confining its attacks to military targets.

In a statement to our radio, the Islamic sources said these accusations also constitute Israeli recognition of the effectiveness of the Katyusha in defending the civilians and villages in Lebanon. The accusations are a signal to the Israeli public that Israel does not intend to retaliate for the Katyusha bombardment of occupied Palestine, which caused clear panic in Israeli society.

Islamic Resistance Issues Statement

NC2306164095 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 23 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Resistance has issued a statement announcing that the Zionist enemy's policy of intimidation and aggression against innocent civilians and peaceful villages will not go unpunished; it will have its response. It added that it will not allow this tyrannical foe to freely shed the blood of our proud and dignified kinsfolk.

The Islamic Resistance said it is adhering to its policy of responding in kind to any aggression against civilians in their peaceful villages in the south and western al-Biqa'. It pointed out that in line with this policy it responded to an attack on Shaqra by bombarding the Nahariyya settlement in northern occupied Palestine with Katyusha rockets, scoring direct hits.

The statement added: The Islamic Resistance assures the Zionist entity's leaders that it will continue its strikes against Zionist colonies unless the Zionists halt their brutal aggression on peaceable villages and on our honorable civilian compatriots.

Fadlallah, Others Praise 'Resistance'

NC2306185195 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 23 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The mujahid 'Allamah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has stated that the Islamic Resistance is a guarantee that Islam's spirit will live on.

In his two Friday prayers sermons in Beirut's Southern Suburb today, 'Allamah Fadlallah praised the operations carried out by the Islamic Resistance in retaliation for the Zionist entity's recent criminal assaults on south Lebanon. He said the operations have created a real crisis for the Zionist entity after its occupation forces lost their morale.

Fadlallah remarked that Resistance operations are a source of pride and honor for the Islamic nation. He urged Islamic unity and cohesion versus the enemies of Islam.

He added: The example of Imam Husayn's actions in 'Ashura teaches us not to bargain with the enemies. So we cannot accept bargaining with the Zionist entity.

Shaykh Mahir Humud, a member of Lebanon's Muslim ulema grouping, delivered two Friday prayers sermons at the Qatish Mosque in Sidon. He blamed the United States for the Zionist attacks on Lebanon. He declared that the U.S. Administration's backing of the Zionist entity is designed to put pressure on the Lebanese Government and force it to make concessions to the Zionist entity.

Shaykh Humud urged the Lebanese Government to support the Islamic Resistance.

Sidon's religious court judge, Shaykh Ahmad al-Zayn, strongly criticized the U.S. backing for the Zionists.

He said: All the world's Muslims must back the Lebanese people, who are being subjected to a U.S.-backed Zionist aggression.

Shaykh al-Zayn criticized the recent U.S. anti-Iran measures, noting that the Iranian economy is now better than before the United States declared its trade embargo against it. He said this shows that the Iranian people will never submit to U.S. or Zionist threats.

In his two Friday prayers sermons in north Lebanon today, Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, leader of the Islamic Unification Movement, said the United States and the Zionist entity are trying to halt the Islamic Resistance by launching attacks on south Lebanon. He said the operations conducted by the Islamic Resistance demonstrate the failure of the U.S. and Zionist schemes.

Vice President Returns From Iran Visit

JN2506154395 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1415 GMT 25 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and his delegation returned to Damascus this afternoon after leading the Syrian Arab side to meetings of the Higher Syrian-Iranian Joint Committee.

Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani received Khaddam who conveyed a message to him from President Hafiz al-Asad. President Hashemi-Rafsanjani asked him to convey a reply message to President al-Asad.

The message dealt with bilateral relations and ways of developing them in the interest of the two countries and region.

In statements to the Syrian and Iranian media at Tehran Airport, the vice president expressed pleasure for meeting with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and his satisfaction with the results of the talks.

He said the joint committee meetings discussed the international and regional situation, the peace process, and bilateral relations.

Khaddam added: I can say that both parties understand the views of the other party, and I felt the satisfaction and understanding of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and other Iranian brothers for what has happened and what is going on, and there is an agreement of views. Both countries are well aware of their interests and those of the region, and work for protecting their principles and interests.

Asked about the developments of the peace process, the vice president said we are still at the negotiations stage with Israel and thus far there has not been any agreement, and no agreement will be reached without full Israeli withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 borderlines.

On his part, Iranian Vice President Hasan Habibi described the Syrian delegation's visit as very good. He said the talks dealt with assessing the stage between the two joint committee meetings, the regional and international situation, and issues of joint interest, in addition to ways of activating the Nonaligned Movement before the forthcoming summit of this movement.

He said it was decided to hold preparatory meetings to coordinate the positions of the two countries at the Nonaligned Movement.

Khaddam and his delegation left Tehran at noon today. He was seen off by Dr. Hasan Habibi, Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Syrian Ambassador in Tehran Ahmad Hasan, and ranking Iranian Foreign Ministry officials.

TV: Israel Trying To Keep U.S. Out of Talks

JN2506201295 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1810 GMT 25 Jun 95

["Behind the News" feature by Yusuf Maqdisi; read by Raja Farzali]

[FBIS Translated Text] A few days before the resumption of the military negotiations between the Syrian and Israeli chiefs of staff in Washington, Yitzhaq Rabin told the U.S. newspaper, THE WASHINGTON POST, that the Israeli-Syrian negotiations, which are held under the auspices of the Americans, do not allow a calm exchange of views between the two sides because everything that is said in the presence of the Americans is transformed into an official statement.

A careful reading of the Israeli prime minister's statement prompts us to draw the following conclusions:

1. Rabin wants to keep Washington, a cosponsor of the peace conference, away from the Syrian-Israeli talks because this means abandoning the U.S. initiative itself and the U.S. commitment to realizing a just and comprehensive peace in the region in accordance with UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

2. By keeping the U.S. side away from the talks—in the same way Europe was prevented by Israel from playing any effective role in the peace process—Rabin aims to cancel the stand announced by President Clinton during his Damascus summit with President Hafiz al-Asad; namely, that the security of any side must not be at the expense of the other side.

3. Rabin has not renounced the notion of deviating from the Madrid terms of reference and the methods of holding secret and separate deals such as the Oslo agreement, which gave Israel political, military, legal, and geographic gains at the expense of the Palestinians.

4. Despite all the contradictory statements that are issued by him and his government officials on peace, Rabin is still proving that he has not abandoned his wavering and his desire for compromises and for realizing gains in the negotiations on the Syrian track despite his full knowledge that Syria will not abandon a single inch of its occupied territory and will only accept Israeli withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 lines.

The Rabin government's policy prompts us to recapitulate on the Israeli stand since the peace process began in 1991. Since the convocation of the Madrid conference, it has been obvious that Israel agreed against its will to the U.S. initiative announced by former president George Bush because this initiative considered the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 the basis for realizing a just and comprehensive peace in the region. Israel knows that commitment to these two resolutions will lead to ending its occupation because Resolution 242 stipulates the impermissibility of the acquisition of the territory of others by force. Therefore, Israel tried to contain the U.S. initiative by playing up the issue of what it calls its security needs and by marginalizing the role of the cosponsor of the peace process under the pretext that the direct bilateral negotiations, the transfer of negotiations to the region, and the secret negotiations with this or that side are according to it the best means of concluding peace agreements that would ensure its security requirements.

Israel's aim was to dissociate itself from the Madrid terms of reference and cancel the role of the peace process cosponsor by transforming it into a role of a postman. The aim is to empty the U.S. initiative of any commitment to implementing the international legitimacy resolutions, especially the land-for-peace principle; namely, considering the Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territory the first element of peace.

During the six rounds which were held in Washington after the Madrid conference, the Rabin government did not make any change worth mentioning on its stands as it promised to make following the Labor Party victory over the Likud, except for general, public relations statement on peace without any corresponding stands in the negotiations, especially in the field of positive dealing with the Syrian peace. These propaganda statements were merely a cover for what was being arranged in the corridors of Oslo; namely, the Gaza-Jericho First agreement, after which Rabin announced that there was nothing to be gained from the Washington talks.

Thus, Israel has tried to present the Oslo agreement as an alternative to the Madrid terms of reference and to make all the subsequent agreements similar to this agreement by which Israel dictated its terms to the Palestinian side represented by 'Arafat. The Oslo agreement was a deviation from the U.S. initiative and made the peace process cosponsor ineffective, confining its role to ceremonial and propaganda roles which vanished with the conflagration that we have been witnessing since the beginning of the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

However, the ship of peace did not sail in accordance with the Israeli whims because Syria adhered to the Madrid terms of reference and asserted that separate solutions would not realize just and comprehensive peace. This means that any attempt to foil the U.S. initiative and prevent the activation of the U.S. role in accordance with the assurances and commitments which Washington offered before the Madrid conference will kill the opportunity presented by the U.S. initiative to solve the conflict in the region in accordance with legitimate resolutions. Indeed, Syria clearly explained that it prefers the status quo to any solutions that are presented outside the principles on which the peace process was based.

This stand does not mean that Syria has abandoned its strategic choice of peace, but is an affirmation of this choice which Israel is exploiting to realize its own gains under the pretext of meeting its security requirements and its conditions of what it calls test periods, confidence-building, and normalization.

This recapitulation of the Israeli stand clearly demonstrates that Israel is still placing mines on the road to peace. The latest of these mines is Rabin's desire to keep the United States away from effective participation in talks on the Syrian-Israeli track. This is because Israel is irritated even by the participation of its strategic ally, Washington in the negotiations because of its proposals which contravene the U.S. Initiative and the international legitimacy. How then can progress be made when the peace process is entangled by the Israeli haggling? If Rabin and the others continue to insist on this haggling, it will only bring their efforts to naught.

We reiterated that the road to peace is passable if the Rabin government makes up its mind and affirms unequivocally that it is prepared to withdraw from the Golan to the 4 June 1967 borders and from all the occupied Lebanese territory.

Radio Stresses U.S. Efforts in Washington Talks

JN2506163695 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 25 Jun 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: The expected meeting between the chiefs of staff will begin in Washington within hours under U.S. patronage and with the participation of the U.S. Administration, which has intensified its efforts during the last two days to ensure that the meeting will have positive and fruitful results which will advance the peace process toward the objective for which it was launched nearly four years ago.

Despite the importance of the U.S. role, the positiveness of the expected results necessarily depend on the Israeli position which can advance the peace process or abort all efforts. Thus, the region can attain just and comprehensive peace or can be driven to possibilities that no one can predict.

If Israel wants to seize the opportunity and buy time, especially before the elections in Israel and the United

States, it should meet the requirements of peace, led by the Israeli withdrawal from the occupied land to the 4 June 1967 lines and from the entire Lebanese territory. Israel should also accept the legitimacy of parallelism [tawazi], equality [tasawi], and balance [tawazun] of the security arrangements on both sides of the 4 June 1967 lines in a manner that realizes security and stability for all, without privileges or gains that may seem so today, but will be adversely reflected on both peace and the region at the first practical test they face in the future.

The circumstances are delicate and there are only a few hours to go before the Washington meeting, so responsibility requires that the U.S. Administration carries out its responsible role with some firmness in order not to waste the peace opportunity and to maintain the aspired international stability and security that will not be realized unless the region witnesses its own stability and security. The files are in the hands of the U.S. sponsor, and they include facts, documents, and information that make the picture very clear. They all call for establishing a just and comprehensive peace that is based on full withdrawal and balanced security, as well as ordinary [al-'adiyah] peace relations as required by the circumstances resulting from the liberation of the land, the restoration of rights, and the termination of aggression. This is what President Clinton had said during the historic summit held in Damascus.

Syria has offered one opportunity after another and paved the way for peace. The Washington meeting is strong evidence of Syria's desire to establish just peace and of its defense of the strategic peace option, which Syria raised as a slogan and which it continues to support. It is the most important test of Israel's seriousness and its sincerity for peace and for its future in the region. Without peace, the future cannot be determined. To jump over or circumvent this valuable peace opportunity will be a miscalculated adventure.

Papers Say Success of Talks Depends on Israel

JN2506073595 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 25 Jun 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] The newspaper TISHRIN says that Syria has repeatedly made it clear that peace in the Middle East is a strategic option and that it is firmly committed to the peace process. The paper says that Syria's high-ranking representation at the military talks reflects Syria's faith in peace and its undeniable search for it. It also reflects Syria's sincere desire to free the region of the cycle of war and conflicts and to gear its resources to social and economic development.

The paper says that the success of the Washington talks depends on the extent of Israel's positiveness and flexibility. It reminds us that the previous military talks did not achieve any progress and reflected Israel's arrogance, intransigence, and haughtiness, so much so that Syria developed the conviction then that Israel did not want peace and that it is better to keep the current situation as it is.

The paper says that the relentless U.S. efforts have contributed to reaching an understanding on the guidelines. Therefore, it was possible to arrange for military meetings in Washington to translate the guidelines into an equitable and tangible reality on the ground.

Concluding its editorial, TISHRIN stresses that Israel's response to the requirements of a just and comprehensive solution, headed by full withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 lines and adopting the principle of equitability [takafu'] in the proposed arrangements, will tangibly and decisively help boost the peace process. Therefore, the paper says, the Washington military talks will be a test ofIsrael's intentions and credibility.

AL-BA'TH says that the talk about the peace process and the efforts exerted to advance it is often linked to the so-called elections cards in the United States and Israel. The paper says: Regrading this link, observers notice that there are many statements implicitly or explicitly urging Syria to take the chance and make this year a year of peace. In response to this argument, the paper says: Syria's stand is well-known. It has exerted and continues to exert efforts to advance the peace process.

AL-BA'TH says that from the outset, nobody linked the achievement of peace to the U.S. elections. Even if such a link was raised at any point in time, there is actually no relationship between it and the attainment of the objective of peace. Nor does this issue apply to Israel, in which the rule is divided between the Labor and Likud. The paper says that the issue is based on clear principles included in an initiative based on international legitimacy and the UN resolutions. Hence, this raises questions about the principle of commitment or noncommitment to this initiative.

AL-BA'TH says: On the eve of these talks, one can reassert the principles of the Syrian policy which have won world appreciation. It is a stand that accepts no territorial bargains or any concessions of any rights. If it is desired that this year be a year of peace, then withdrawal to the 4 June lines and the establishment of parallel [mutawaziyah] and equal [mutasawiyah] security arrangements is a prerequisite for the achievement of a just, comprehensive peace. This was referred to by the U.S. initiative, which never linked the elections to an objective sought by whoever wants security and stability to prevail in this region.

Afghanistan

Official Comments on 'International Conspirators'

LD2406193395 Tehran IRNA in English
1804 GMT 24 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, June 24, IRNA — The caretaker Prime Minster of Afghanistan, Ahmad Shah Ahmadzai, told IRNA in Kabul Sunday [as received] when he stated that international conspirators are creating obstacles for the stabilization of the Islamic government in Afghanistan in order to bring an anti-Islamic government to power.

Ahmadzai indicated that Uzbekistan, Afghanistan's northern neighbor, has declared its strong oppostion to the establishment of an Islamic government in Afghanistan and is fully supporting general 'Abdol Rashid Dostam with armaments and countrfeit money for the secession of northern region from Afghanistan.

The caretaker prime minister pointed out that both Uzbekistan and Pakistan have formed a common front and strategy to unite the Taleban group and that of General Dostam, both opposition groups, with the motive of overthrowing the central government of Afghanistan. He went on to say the nature of these two opposition groups is such that the materialization of their unity is considered far fetched.

Ahmadzai stated that Afghanistan's struggle is the war between the righteousness against the falsehood. He added that as long as General Dostam does not repent for being a communist and cut off his relations with Uzbekistan, he will not be given any right and a religious war against him shall not be annulled.

The caretaker prime minister said that with the collapse of United Nations' mediation by Mahmoud Mestiri, the special UN envoy, General Dostam has begun to doubt his role as being vital. It is for this reason that the general has escalated the war in the northern region, added Ahmadzai.

Ahmadzai underlined that military insurgence of the general has failed and all the strategic areas in the north have been overrun by the government forces. He went on to say the jihad war against him will continue until all the northern sector comes under the control of the government and that their security is guaranteed.

The caretaker prime minister pointed out that the security zone around the capital city is not endangered and that the claims made by General Dostam that he is in possession of Luna rockets which can easily hit all the targets in Kabul is a plain lie. Ahmadzai indicated that General Dostam has used all the means at his disposal to inflict injury to the government and if he were in possession of such rockets he would not hesitate to hit Kabul.

Minister Comments on Iranian Visit, Relations

LD2506093195 Tehran IRNA in English
0841 GMT 25 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, June 25, IRNA — Iran's Ambassador to Afghanistan Gholam Reza Haddadi and Afghan Foreign Minister Najibollah Lafra'i here Saturday [24 June] discussed relations between the two countries.

At the meeting, Lafra'i described the result of his last week visit to Tehran and his talks with Iranian authorities as very fruitful and satisfactory. He also appreciated the warm welcome accorded to the Afghan delegation in Tehran.

He voiced his country's readiness for the formation of a joint economic commission with Iran, due to convene in Tehran next month.

It was also said at the meeting that a delegation will leave for Iran to provide the preliminaries for the formation of a joint commission to campaign against drugs.

Meanwhile, the Iranian ambassador expressed satisfaction over the agreements reached between the two countries and evaluated Tehran-Kabul relations as growing, hoping for further expansion of bilateral ties.

The Iranian delegation to the joint economic commission will be led by Construction Jihad Minister Mohammad Foruzesh and the Afghan mission will be headed by Minister of Planning Seyyed Mohammad 'Ali Javid.

India

Chidambaram on Talks With U.S. Commerce Secretary

BK2106034395 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 0245 GMT 21 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India has pleaded for greater market access for its goods and services in the United States. The commerce minister, Mr. P. Chidambaram, now on a visit to the United States, made this plea at his meeting with the commerce secretary, Mr. Ronald Brown, at Santa Clara, California.

Later, talking to newspersons, Mr. Chidambaram said New Delhi is willing to sign an investment treaty with Washington to promote investment prospects. He said the U.S. insistence to incorporate the intellectual property rights in the treaty is creating difficulty. He said this is beyond the scope of the World Trade

Organization. Mr. Chidambaram said that during the meeting with his American counterpart, he has raised the issue of free movement of computer professionals as also problems in the area of textiles and marine exports. Mr. Chidambaram said the United States is India's largest investing and trading partner and this relationship could be developed further.

Maharashtra Leader Signs Accord in New York

BK2406161795 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 24 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The State Industrial Corporation of Maharashtra has signed a memorandum of understanding in power sector with three companies of the United States. The memoranda was signed in New York in the presence of the state chief minister, Mr. Manohar Joshi, who is leading a business delegation.

Speaking on the occasion, the chief minister said the state government fully supports the policies of the union government regarding economic reforms and privatization. He said all possible assistance will be given to the entrepreneurs investing in the state.

Editorial Welcomes U.S. 'Commercial Alliance'

BK2406120595 Madras THE HINDU in English 23 Jun 95 p 12

[Editorial: "Indo-U.S. Commercial Alliance"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The decision of Indian and U.S. businessmen to extend the umbrella concept of Indo-U.S. Commercial Alliance and forge sectoral alliances in the specific areas of power, information technology, transportation, infrastructure and agri-business, apart from providing the needed linkage between commercial exchanges and the steps which would have to be taken to bring about a flow of direct U.S. investments into this country, should help towards imparting a much-needed clarity to the on-going debate on crucial issues.

It should have come quite as a surprise to many that India has a trade surplus of $2 billions with the U.S. This amounts to a testimony to the growing dynamism among Indian exporters in having explored the opportunities in the U.S. for stepping up their sales to a country to which access to the products from the developing country has hardly been easy and is even becoming difficult. The Indian sponsors of the Indo-U.S. Commercial Alliance should strengthen their business contacts in the U.S. to help them expand their purchases of Indian goods wherever they are internationally competitive. Apart from persuading the NRIs [nonresident Indians] to channel their investible funds into this country, they should take their help to locate U.S. demand for variety of products which Indian industry could sell at competitive prices. One could be sure that the NRIs who are entrepreneurs running their own businesses would respond read readily to the efforts. India has been having an edge over other countries in respect of software and it should not only retain the international competitiveness it has won in this crucial area but also consolidate it to make its position unassailable. The NRIs who are electronic professionals the U.S. should also be sought out for the help and support they can give for this purpose.

The focus of the task of expanding Indo-U.S. trade exchange will have to be on the quality and competitiveness of whatever is getting into the package of exports and imports. There are policy questions relating to the flow of U.S. investments into India. There is no reason why the road-blocks here could not be hurled aside if there is a clear understanding of the principles and issues involved. Notwithstanding the discordant note struck by the Left parties in the country, the record of Mr. Jyoti Basu, the CPI (M) [Communist Party of India-Marxist] Chief Minister of West Bengal, offers the best proof that there is now no ideological hang-up in India among any of the political parties against making the country hospitable to foreign investments. The debate over the Enron project, for instance, is by and large over whether it will be in the country's overall interests relating to expansion of power generation and whether the price it is asked to pay is fair or unconscionably high. The questions raised here are whether the investment has been correctly estimated and approved, counter-guarantees sought from India are justified and acceptable, the price which the electricity consumers would have to pay, while ensuring return investment is fair. That such basic issues are reopened at this stage is not too encouraging from the standpoint of the overall interests of the country going beyond a single project. The Enron review ought not to be prolonged further and the Maharashtra Government needs to clear the project with the minor changes that may be agreed upon. That will send a strong message about the determination of the State Government to push ahead with development. While the controversy has assumed a great deal of symbolic importance, it should be made clear that Indo-U.S. commercial ties and the prospects for investment go far beyond Enron and the attractiveness of Maharashtra as a destination.

TV Reports on Germany Support for Investments

BK2306015795 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1430 GMT 22 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India has got the support of the European Union, particularly Germany, to ensure transparent and nondiscriminatory behavior by the developed countries at the World Trade Organization, WTO. The finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, was speaking on foreign policy and economic development at the Christian Socialist Union Foreign Club in Munich. Dr. Singh was concluding a three-day visit to Germany to boost Indo-German economic ties.

During his visit, the finance minister held discussions with German leaders and industrialists including the minister for chancellery, Mr. Friedrich Bohl, and the minister for economic cooperation, Mr. Spranger. Both countries decided to grant most favored nation status to each other. A number of agreements on financial cooperation were designed including the avoidance of double taxation. Dr. Singh expressed satisfaction on German investments in India.

[Begin Singh recording] Already several major concerns of Germany like Siemens, BMW [Bavarian Motor Works], and other companies are in India. They have plans of expanding their activity. We are now trying to induce all German small and medium industries to look much more favorably at India. In the meeting with Minister Bohl, I was informed that the German industry is now launching an initiative of its partnership with Indian industry so that more German investments can flow to India. [end recording]

Growing Economic Ties Noted

BK2206120195 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 22 Jun 95

[Commentary by Tapan Dasgupta]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The three-day visit of the finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, to Bonn has been fruitful for more reasons than one. The bilateral investment treaty India signed with Germany marking the end of two-year-long protracted negotiations is likely to make investment by German companies in this country more attractive. The double-taxation avoidance agreement initiated by the finance ministers of the two countries is also expected to provide a fresh impetus to mutual flows of investment, technology, trade and services between Bonn and New Delhi. It is a revision of the earlier agreement to take into account substantial changes in the tax laws of the two countries, especially in respect of nonresidents since the signing of the Indo-German protocol in June 1984.

Germany also committed 366 million German marks which are equivalent to $450 million as assistance for development projects in rural, small-scale and infrastructure sectors. The financial protocol signed by Dr. Singh and the German minister for economic cooperation, Mr. Carl-Dieter Spranger, in this respect is a clear signal that Germany will continue to be India's second largest development partner despite Bonn's domestic constraints. It is also significant that nearly two-thirds of the total financial assistance is earmarked for environment protection, development of small-scale industries and housing programs for economically weaker sections. The German commitment of financial assistance is expected to set the tone for the meeting of the India Development Forum being held in Paris from 28 to 30 June when India's major donor countries will pledge assistance for 1995.

Germany ranks among the top foreign investors in this country. But accumulated value of German investment is not high, estimated at about 450 million German marks. This is despite the fact that major German companies such as Bayer, Hoechst, Bosch, Siemens and AEG are household names. Recent entrants include BMW, Volkswagen, and Mercedes-Benz. What, however, is of more relevance is a considerable attitudinal change in German small and medium-size companies' interest in India.

Newspaper reports suggest that behind the resurgent interest in the Indian market is the realization that Germany has perhaps been too much preoccupied with China and that it should now turn toward India. Such an impression was apparent at the annual meeting of the Indo-German Chamber of Commerce which coincided with the finance minister's visit. The meeting was attended by more than 200 participants comprising businessmen, consultants and bankers. Their mood was upbeat as they were impressed upon by representatives of German majors that India provides an unrivalled business opportunity which will not be lost. The small and medium-size businesses were asked to take a long-term view and make India as a base for exports to Southeast Asia. The reforms will continue even if non-Congress government takes over after the national elections next year.

The meeting was also told by Mercedes-Benz about its strategy in India of producing a car at one-third of the cost in Germany and selling it to the Indian customers and exporting to Southeast Asian markets. It was noted that India's medium-size sector has come of age during the last four years. Helped by the policy of liberalization, the medium-size Indian industries have upgraded their technical standards. Some of the areas identified for fruitful Indo-German cooperation were machine tools, automotive industries and ready-made garments. Germany has also evinced keen interest in an expanded vocational training program in India for generation of more useful jobs, raising ultimately the country's production and Gross National Product.

Editorial Views Aftermath of NPT Approval

BK2306031695 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 22 Jun 95 p 8

[Editorial: "Nuclear Chicanery"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India's contention that the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT] gives nuclear weapons powers the licence to multiply their weapons of mass destruction has been proved right twice over within a month of the treaty being extended indefinitely. Scarcely was the ink dry on undertakings to exercise the utmost restraint in weapons testing than China carried out yet another underground test and France broke a three-year moratorium by announcing a series of eight tests between this year and next in the South Pacific. In betraying the trust of nonnuclear states, which is how an outraged Japan characterised the French decision, the weapons powers are jeopardising a treaty they claim is the best guarantee of a safer world. Nowhere is the chicanery and arrogance of the weapons powers as plain as on a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty [CTBT]. In order to counter NPT sceptics among 170 non-nuclear states, the nuclear powers gave assurances, among other things, about bringing into force a CTBT at an early date. However, the likelihood of one emerging has become more, not less remote since the NPT review conference ended.

Judging by developments in the weapons states, an arms race has commenced to escape the rigours of the CTBT as it is currently envisaged. China is developing missiles with longer ranges capable of carrying multiple warheads. It has made clear its intention to go on testing weapons to achieve greater reliability and greater explosive yields per kiloton before accepting a comprehensive ban. The purpose of the French tests is to obtain a final series of data so that the scientists can go over to computer-simulated testing of weapons. But there can be no certainty that the eight scheduled tests will be the last. Chinese and French efforts to perfect their weapons strengthen the hands of those sections of American, British and Russian military establishments which view no-test decisions as a surrender of sovereignty. A CTBT is being undermined or made completely redundant in other ways too, including moves, reportedly, to exclude low-yield weapons testing from the ban. In that event, or because progress in laboratory testing will obviate any need to carry out actual physical tests, what has been promoted as an essential part of the architecture of disarmament will be a hollow sham.

Daily Views Uncertainty Over Power Projects

BK2406124995 Delhi BUSINESS STANDARD in English 23 Jun 95 p 11

[Editorial: "From tragedy to farce"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Uncertainty over large, foreign-funded power generation projects is now spreading like an epidemic. The first infection was reported when the newly elected Maharashtra government decided to review its agreement to buy power from the Dabhol project, being set up by Enron Corporation of the US. The next projects to hit turbulence, as a result, were the two in West Bengal, with the promoter, CMS Energy Corporation of the US, deciding to first wait and see what happens at Dabhol. Then it was the turn of Mitsubishi Heavy Engineering, which was seeking a role in the Cogentrix power project in Mangalore, to have second thoughts, and to adopt a wait-and-see attitude. As if all this weren't bad enough, the Orissa government has now decided to follow in the footsteps of the Maharashtra government and take a fresh look at the Ib valley project that is to be set up by AES Transpower, again of the US. Through all this the Andhra Pradesh government has been doing its own flip-flop on several projects.

If anyone wanted an object lesson in how not to implement reforms, this can be a classic and cautionary tale, and one that will do very little credit to most of the parties involved. The danger is that if the epidemic spreads, no amount of official persuasion on both the Indian and American sides to leave the Enron controversy behind and get on with the task ahead will be of any avail. The reform programme will have taken a major knock, and the power sector will see a drying-up of investment unlike telecommunications, for example, where tendering and the execution of contracts is now going through smoothly, after some initial hiccups.

An enormous change in mindset, statute and practices was necessary to attract private, and particularly foreign, investment in the power sector. The Narasimha Rao government began the work as soon as it assumed office, but in the effort to cut through the forest of hurdles in the way, all manner of shortcuts were taken, and the fuzzy stand adopted that the first few projects would be given specially attractive terms in order to begin the flow of investment into this sector. The shortcuts were both procedural and in relation to policy (the counter-guarantees were after all a substitute for reform of the electricity distribution system). Against this backdrop of a rush to start signing deals, and since the projects involve large sums of money, the temptation and opportunity were always there to strike sweetheart deals. So the suspicion of corruption hangs over the entire scene, although no specific charges have been made, let alone proved. Conversely, if one were to assume that there has been no corruption, the imperfect nature of some of the contracts suggests incompetence on the part of the Indian negotiators. Systemically, that is the bigger worry.

But the price for implementing reform in the manner of a game of blind man's bluff (or a game without properly laid-down rules) is that a new player, in the form of a new state government, will baulk at playing blind, and begin to take a good hard look at whether any rules have been followed. If this wholly unexceptionable move gets mixed up with all manner of political and personal motives, the only loser once again is the country as a whole, because the review process itself is not going by the rule-book. Having arrived at just such a pass, the danger now is of looking back at a colossal waste of four years of effort, a discrediting of the reform programme, and the prospect of power supply getting rapidly worse because of paltry additional investment. And it is of no help for each of the players to point the finger of blame at the others.

The choices today are clear. Either the various state governments go ahead with the contracts that have already been signed, or they subject them to a review that could (if renegotiation fails) lead to cancellation. In the event of deals being called off, it is far from clear whether promoters and financiers will offer better terms in subsequent deals; and whether, even if they do, the improvement will be sufficient to compensate for the damages to be paid on the cancelled contracts. In the event of the signed contracts being honoured, even if they are not the best that could have been possible, the downside which will have to be accepted is that power will be made available at a higher cost than was necessary. Which is the lesser evil, and which the more practical option, is a matter that may vary from case to case. By and large, it may be better at this stage to let sleeping dogs lie. But it hardly needs stressing that while the controversy over Enron was bad enough, today's epidemic of uncertainty could convert potential tragedy into farce.

Security Forces Uncover New Insurgent Group

BK2006161295 Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 16 Jun 95 p 8

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Silchar, June 15 — The security forces have uncovered a new ethnic insurgent outfit, the Gangtes Democratic Force (GDF), operating in Manipur, Mizoram and the Cachar district of south Assam.

Sources said the GDF comprises disgruntled youth who have created a base on land belonging to the Gangte tribals in Churachandpur district of Manipur, and are active in the surrounding areas. Apart from extorting money, these militants dabble in insurgency, and also have links with the Manipur-based separatist outfit, the Kuki National Front (KNF).

The sources said the Gangtes are trying to fill in a void created by the mass surrender of the underground Hmar People's Convention (HPC) in October last year.

Subrahmanyam on 'Clandestine' Western Arms Transfers

BK2006122995 Delhi THE ECONOMIC TIMES in English 17 Jun 95 p 7

["Global Watch" column by K. Subrahmanyam: "Clandestine arms transfers"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The enquiry report of Justice Scot Commission to examine the issue of British government authorising sale of defence equipment to Iraq is to be published later this year but leaks of extracts from that report highlight that the government did mislead the House of Commons on the policy change.

While the policy not to supply defence equipment had been modified, the Parliament was told there had been no change in policy. The full impact of the Scot Commission report will be known only when the report is published.

At this stage yet another scandal has surfaced. In the eighties, when there was an embargo on supply of defence equipment to Iran, British naval guns reached Iran via Singapore. This is not a fresh discovery. Even at that time there were reports of the supply of guns to Iran on the basis of dubious end-user certificate that they were destined for Singapore. It may be recalled the US government which was leading the crusade on arms embargo to Iran was itself dealing in clandestine arms transfers to Iran and then using the profits to finance the Nicaraguan contras against the specific legislation of the Congress prohibiting such financial support to the right wing contra rebels.

The investigations of special prosecutor in the US reached the conclusion that the US President, Reagan, vice-president Bush and defence secretary Weinberger were all aware of these transactions. The defence secretary Weinberger, national security adviser Admiral Poindexter and his assistant Colonel Oliver North were found guilty, but were later pardoned or aquitted.

The Pakistanis maintain that the US authorities were aware of Pakistan assembling nuclear weapons in 1987 and yet the US Congress was provided with misleading certification that Pakistan did not have a nuclear explosive device during the years 1987, 1988 and 1989 to enable Pakistan to receive military aid by getting around the Pressler amendment. On two occasions the US has invoked sanctions against Pakistan and China on account of missile transfer. Subsequently the sanction period against China has been curtailed. No action was taken against Chinese transfer of long range CSS-2 missiles to Saudi Arabia and one wonders how those missiles are being maintained operationally without continued Chinese help.

Sophisticated equipment like Stringer surface-to-air missiles from the US and Blowpipe antiaircraft missiles from Britain were transferred to the Afghan Mujahideen and they have not all been recovered. A large number of Scud and other surface-to-surface missiles were available to Iran and Iraq during their war and such missiles continue to be available in the international arms bazaar. North Korea, China, and ex-Soviet Republic are sources for such missiles.

These factors have to be taken into account in formulating Indian missile policy. It is obvious that even assurances given by democratic governments to their legislatures have been evaded in the past and arms supplies had been carried out covertly. Such covert transactions may be continuing even now and they may get exposed, in future. Therefore, it would be imprudent to accept the assurances of even democratic governments on arms supplies.

In the case of non-democratic governments, the presumption has to be that they would carry out such arms supplies on the basis of their perception of their respective national interests. There can be no question of accepting any assurances from China, North Korea or any of the former Soviet Republics.

So long as such missiles are available in the world markets India has to provide for contingencies of their being made available to Pakistan.

Arms control agreements between US and Soviet Union were in a bipolar framework without their being influenced by any third parties. In the case of India-Pakistan weapon balance this cannot be treated in a similar manner as a self-contained system. When the US decided to supply F-16 aircraft to Pakistan in the eighties it did not bother about the destabilising impact it would have on the region. Therefore, India cannot mortgage its security on the whims and fancies of external powers who can change their minds on the basis of their prevalent perceptions of their national interests. India cannot afford to sacrifice an indigenous technology it has developed on its own. In any case Pakistan is in no position to enter into an arms race with India. No other country in the world has ever sacrificed its indigenous technology for maintaining a localised, restricted artificial regional balance.

The US suspicions about Iranian nuclear ambitions, the US inability to keep Pakistan under check and the growth of Chinese power all these factors must be taken into account by India besides the total unreliability of nations to keep their word in regard to arms transfers in deciding on its missile development and deployment policies.

Iran

Friday Sermon Questions U.S. Fight Against Islam

LD2306151595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1050 GMT 23 Jun 95

[Second Friday prayers sermon delivered by Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati in Tehran on 23 June — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] I declare here — whether the United States realizes or not, wants or not — that Islam is on the increase; it is growing everywhere. They occasionally admit to it, too. A British newspaper wrote that since the crisis caused by the cursed Salman Rushdie, about 20,000 British women have converted to Islam. [passage omitted]

In the United States, they keep writing that Islam is on the increase. The blacks are becoming Muslims fast, and the whites are becoming Muslims.

Experience has shown that fighting Islam would eventually lead to defeat. You saw what happened in the Soviet Union. That anti- religious and anti-God policy was defeated, the mosques have risen again, the churches have risen, the priests have come, Friday prayers preachers have come, the scholars have come, the religious schools are gradually starting, and the sounds of Takbir [God is Great], Azan [call to prayers], and the Koran have risen. [passage omitted]

In our neighboring country, Turkey, for a long time they were very strict with Muslims. The Muslims were under a great deal of pressure. Now, after 60 or 70 years, they have realized today that fighting against Islam and the Muslims will not lead to a victory.

Recently I visited Romania at the invitation of that country's supreme court of constitution [as heard]. I was accompanied by a delegation from our country's Guardian Council. The objective of the visit was to study the issues of their constitution. Anyway, on the return journey I stayed in Istanbul for several days. This was my first visit to Istanbul. Frankly, I saw that the Muslims are gradually gaining plenty of freedom. There are Islamic newspapers and Islamic radio and television programs, which interviewed me. You can hear the call for prayers early in the morning. The mosques are busy. Perhaps it was for the first time that about 500,000 to 600,000 people attended 'Ashura mourning ceremonies in an open space in Istanbul. [passage omitted]

This was an example.

We have seen some other examples that prove that whenever a group has tried to confront Islam, it has been ultimately defeated. I do not understand why the Americans do not realize this? And if they do, why are they fighting Islam and the Muslims in this manner? Why are you treating Bosnia in this way? Why do you panic and call for a cease-fire as soon as a handful of Bosnian Muslims advance a little in the war? You intend to stop them from advancing. On the other hand, you remain mere observers when the Serbs kill, destroy, and embark on a genocide. You keep reminding the Bosnian Muslims that they should remain patient.

Why did you sit at the G-7 summit to be mischievous? What did you gain at that summit? Do you think economic pressure will bring us down to our knees? Are you so ignorant not to see the outcome of such pressure on Iraq? After years of exerting the heaviest pressure on Iraq, that country has not submitted to you, despite its ruined state. How then you expect our powerful country to surrender to you as a result of economic pressure. Do you not understand this? This is the alphabet of politics, and you do not understand this. I hope you would reconsider your views, God willing.

I raise one more issue before finishing the sermons today. This is to show the nature of Islam.

You have heard about a Turkish writer called Aziz Nesin [publisher of "The Satanic Verses" into Turkish]. He used to be a Muslim, then he became an apostate and insulted Islam by uttering some filthy remarks that disgusted everyone.

During the same trip someone told me a very interesting story. I was told that Aziz Nesin had been invited to a book exhibition, apparently in the city of Konia, which is a completely religious town. There he intended to sign his book for customers. Turkish newspapers wrote that when he went there no taxi driver was prepared to take him where he wanted to go and hotels refused to give him a room. Some friends were also saying that newspapers published his picture standing in a street with a bag in his hand while taxis were refusing to take him. Such an event takes place in a laic country that stood for removing the name of Islam. These are the facts. You should see these events. You are already monitoring everything with your satellites, so why do you not take notice of these events? [passage omitted]

Velayati Addresses U.S. Embargo's 'Failure'

LD2306170595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1530 GMT 23 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The erroneous American appraisal of world issues, the altering trend of global circumstances and the Islamic Iran's ability for promoting its ties with various world countries are among the basic reasons for the U.S. economic embargo's failure against Iran.

The Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. Velayati, in an exclusive interview with the Persian daily RESALAT published in Tehran, elaborated that the Islamic Republic of Iran has by proximating global outlooks against realities managed to repudiate all scores of American and Zionist allegations levelled against it.

Iran's top diplomat, Mr. Velayati, while rejecting the mediatorship of the veteran Western politician Mr. [Giulio] Andreotti for establishing any relations or normalizing any ties between Iran and the U.S., remarked that Mr. Andreotti has in fact brushed aside any claim of such mediatorship in his interviews with reporters.

Velayati Comments on Trip to Turkmenistan

LD2506185695 Tehran IRIB Television Third Program Network in Persian 1815 GMT 25 Jun 95

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati by unidentified correspondent on 25 June; place not given — live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Unidentified correspondent] You are heading for Turkmenistan this evening. What will be the issues you are going to discuss with the officials in Ashgabat?

[Velayati, in English] As you know, few months ago there was a trilateral talks between Iran, Armenia, and Turkmenistan. Now we are going to hold the second tripartite meeting in Ashgabat between the three countries. These two countries are neighbors. Both of them are landlocked. They want to have more access to open sea and other parts of the world, beside the traditional ways that they have. Between these two tripartite meetings, different committees have been holding [meetings] here, in Ashgabat and also in Armenia. They have prepared homework for us. So, God willing, we will start our talks. We do hope that very soon we will reach a practical point. I can inform you that from different ministries, like the ministries of commerce, economy, roads, and transportation, at the level of the deputy of ministers, will accompany me on this trip. It means that the tripartite meeting will be a comprehensive talks.

Syrian Vice President Pays Visit; Press Comments

Arrives, Comments on Goals

LD2306181595 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam arrived in Tehran this afternoon at the head of a high- ranking political delegation. Vice President Habibi and Foreign Minister Velayati welcomed him and his delegation at Mehrabad airport in Tehran. Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al—Shar' accompanies the Syrian vice president.

On his arrival, Mr. Khaddam described the objective of his visit to be exchanging views on issues of interest to both countries.

Mr. Habibi, describing the two countries relations as excellent, considered such visits to be useful in developing ties between Iran and Syria.

Visits Late Imam's Shrine

LD2406120095 Tehran IRNA in English 1154 GMT 24 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 24, IRNA — The visiting Syrian vice-president, 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam here on Saturday [24 June] attended the shrine of the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the late imam Khomeyni to pay tribute to him and lay a wreath of flower at his tomb.

Khaddam was welcomed by the superintendent of the shrine, Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Hassan Khomeyni.

Khaddam heading a top political delegation arrived in Tehran on Friday. Syrian Foreign Minister, Faruq al-Shar' is one of his entourage.

Comments on Ties, Israeli Talks

LD2406181695 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In an interview with our reporter this evening, Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam answered questions about the relations between Iran and Syria and about regional issues.

Khaddam referred to the good and expanding ties between Iran and Syria and described these relations as a strong and lasting friendship in the region. In response to a question about the extent to which Syria would support Iran's stance towards the United States, the Syrian vice president said: Syria will stand by the Iranian nation and government in the case of any injustice which is committed by any country against Iran.

In reply to a question as to what specific results had been achieved so far from the peace talks with the Zionist regime, the Syrian vice president said: Due to Israel's negative attitude, these talks have not yielded any overall result so far. Specific results can be achieved whenever Israel sets aside its aims. [sentence as heard]

With respect to the way in which the Zionist regime would leave the Golan Heights, Khaddam said: The Israelis have submitted various proposals so far, but no agreement has been reached yet in this regard. He stressed that Syria demanded that Israel return to the borders of June 1967 and that it will make no concessions in this connection.

In response to the question as to what effects agreement with the Zionist regime would have on Syria's stance towards the national- Islamic struggles of the people of Lebanon, the Syrian vice president said: The struggles of the Lebanese people are based on just claims and Syria will not abandon the rights of the Lebanese people under any circumstances.

Presides Over First Session of Talks

LD2406183195 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The first session of the 7th meeting of the supreme joint committee of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Syrian Arab Republic was held today under the chairmanship of First Vice President Hasan Habibi and Syrian Vice Presidnet 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam in the presence of the two countries' foreign ministers.

In this round of talks, Khaddam described the latest developments in the Middle East and relating to Lebanon and Palestine, especially with regards to the attacks by the Zionist regime. He referred to the importance of expanding ties between Iran and Syria and, noting the useful experiences and capabilities of the Islamic Republic of Iran in various fields relating to the economy and culture, said that the consolidation of the relations between the two countries would lead to the preservation of peace, stability, and security in the region and to the expansion of economic and cultural cooperation between Islamic countries.

According to the Central News Unit, our first vice president spoke at the meeting about Iran's views on the aims of the forces of arrogance and Zionism, saying: The realistic and fair solution to the problems of the region would be the full return of the occupied territories and the realization of the ideals and the wishes for attaining of the rights on all sides of the people of the region in Lebanon, Palestine, and the other occupied areas.

Habibi noted that, despite the continuation of the United States' hostile policies, the Iranian nation was achieving considerable successes in the fields of economics and politics with steadfastness and perseverance.

At this round of talks, the two sides also spoke about the situation in Iraq and regional and international issues. Iran and Syria underlined the two countries' resolve with respect to supporting the struggles of the Palestinian and Lebanese people and to maintaining the territorial integrity of Iraq.

Discusses Relations With Rafsanjani

LD2506105595 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 25 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, who led a high-ranking delegation to Tehran, was received by President Hashemi—Rafsanjani today before his departure from Tehran.

During the meeting, Mr. Khaddam expressed satisfaction over the expanding trend of strong relations between Iran and Syria. He then explained his country's views concerning the latest developments in the Middle East peace talks and the international aspects of the talks.

The Syrian vice president said that Syria was acting on the basis of its declared principles. That is the return of the Syrian and Lebanese lands from the Zionist enemy and the complete realization of the ideals of the Arabs and Muslims. Syria is not prepared, under any circumstances, to surrender to the Zionist regime's greed and expansionist policies towards regional countries and nations.

He stressed that Syria support for the struggle of regional Muslim and national forces against the Palestine-occupying regime.

The Syrian vice president referred to developments in the Persian Gulf region and expressed concern over the illegitimate objectives of foreign forces in the region.

During the same meeting, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani described relations between Iran and Syria as strategic, comprehensive, and strong and said that the existing confidence and trust between the two countries' high-ranking officials prepared appropriate grounds for mutual exchange of views and cooperation. He added: The Islamic Republic of Iran is confident about Syria's adroit and wise leadership in confronting the Zionist regime's satanic and expansionist objectives.

The president said Syria is a frontline state which faced the increasing plots of the Palestine-occupying regime and added: Syria has always acted within the framework of support for the legitimate and just struggle of the peoples of Lebanon and Palestine against the Quds-occupying regime's greed. He said: Iran supports the principled stance adopted by Syria and that country's steadfastness in the face of various conspiracies hatched by the Zionist regime.

In another part of his remarks, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani condemned the illegitimate presence in the Persian Gulf region of foreign forces who only pursue their own expansionist objectives and expressed the need for strengthening of good neighborly relations between Iran and the Persian Gulf states aimed at stopping their intervention in the region.

Mr. Khaddam, left Tehran a few hours ago. He was given an official welcome by the First Vice President Hasan Habibi.

IRNA Reports Further on Visit

LD2506124495 Tehran IRNA in English 1239 GMT 25 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 25, IRNA — Visiting Syrian Vice President, 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam met with President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here Sunday [25 June] before leaving Tehran.

In the meeting, Khaddam who was in Tehran to take part in the 7th session of High Iran-Syria Committee, expressed satisfaction with the growing and solid relations between the two countries.

He also outlined Syria's views on the latest developments in the Middle East peace process and on international conditions prevailing in the talks.

He said that Syria was acting according to the its avowed principle of taking back occupied Syrian and Lebanese lands from Zionist enemy and fully materializing the causes of the Arabs and Muslims.

The Syrian vice president said that his country would in no way give in to the and hegemonic goals against the countries and peoples of the region.

The president on his part termed Damascus-Tehran ties as strategic, deep and strong and said that the existing confidence between high ranking Iranian and Syrian authorities has provided an appropriate ground for exchange of views.

Describing Syria as a country that is on the forefront of struggle against the Zionist regime's increasing plots, Rafsanjani said Syria has always backed the struggles of the Lebanese and Palestinian nations the Zionist regime. He also voiced Iran's support for the resistance of the Damascus government to the Zionist regime.

The president, condemning the illgal presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf, underscored the necessity of strengthening good neighborly ties between Iran and the Persian Gulf littoral states in an effort to cut the hands of aliens off the region.

Iranian First vice President Hasan Habibi, Iranian and Syrian foreign ministers were also present in the meeting.

Radio Views 'Great Importance' of Visit

NC2406072395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 24 Jun 95

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam arrived in our country yesterday as the head of a high-level political delegation. He was given an official welcome.

Commenting on the Syrian delegation's visit to Iran and the reciprocal visits by each country's vice president and foreign minister, First Vice President Hasan Ebrahim Habibi described the visits as among the most important developments toward expanding brotherly and friendly relations.

Beginning with President Hafiz al-Asad's visit to Iran three years ago, Syrian and Iranian officials set up a joint commission for fostering closer cooperation. Every six months, on a rotational basis, high-level officials from each country would meet in either Tehran or Damascus. Although these meetings have sometimes been delayed, their existence shows Iran's and Syria's decision to expand mutual, cordial relations.

The Middle East is clearly in the middle of current, unique circumstances and the coordination between the two countries' officials benefits both countries; and, it benefits all the region's people as well.

So far, the United States, which has dragged the PLO and Jordan into a compromise with the Zionist regime, is now exerting intense pressure on Syria. The United States wants Syria to join the process as well, so that the compromise will be all-encompassing.

In these circumstances, the Islamic Republic of Iran's political support for Syria, and this [as heard] country's just position on the necessity of the Zionist regime's withdrawal from all of the occupied Syrian territories, strengthens Damascus' position. This way, the West's plans for granting legitimacy to the Zionist regime's expansionism are neutralized.

Khaddam's visit now—as Washington is seeking to impose an economic embargo on our country—is of great importance. With this visit, Syrian officials have presented their independent political position and have clearly shown their determination to expand regional relations.

Radio Comments on Regional Issues

LD2406163295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 24 Jun 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] On Friday 23 June, Syrian Vice- President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, leading a high-ranking political delegation, arrived in Tehran on a two-day official visit and was greeted by his Iranian counterpart, Dr. Hasan Habibi, and Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati. Upon his arrival in Tehran, Mr. Khaddam the exchange of views on matters of mutual interest for the two countries as the goal of the visit. [sentence as heard]

Iran's vice-president, in his comments on the occasion, referring to the Iran-Syria ties, said: Relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Syrian Arab Republic have always stood at the highest level. And the present conditions call for a discussion on bilateral issues and regional and international subjects between Tehran and Damascus.

Political analysts believe that regional issues will be given priority in the talks between the Syrian team and Iranian officials. One the most important regional issues at present relates to the continuing savage attacks of the Zionist regime against south Lebanon. The Islamic Republic of Iran and Syria have constantly denounced Israeli assaults and stressed their support for the wronged people of Lebanon until complete withdrawal of the Zionist regime's army from the occupied regions of south Lebanon. The compromise process in the Middle East is another subject to be discussed in the meetings of the two countries' officials.

From the viewpoint of Syrian officials, peace talks between Syria and the Zionist regime at present are faced with some serious problems. These problems stem from the fact that the Israeli regime is seeking to evade the enforcement of UN resolutions and also the- land-for-peace plan. The Islamic Republic of Iran's viewpoint too, in this regard, is based on the principle that so long as Tel Aviv continues to hold the occupied lands, peace talks will be of no avail. The reason is that Tel Aviv has practically shown that it is willing to extend only minimum concessions against securing maximum concessions.

In fact, the matters to be discussed during the meetings and talks of the Iranian and Syrian officials are considered to be a reflection of the vast ties existing between the two countries, including political, economic, and cultural cooperation.

Daily Warns Syria on Israel

LD2406141695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1140 GMT 24 Jun 95

[From the Press Review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Today's edition of JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI devotes its leading article to the visit of Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam to Iran. The title of the article is: The Realities of the Palestine Issue.

The daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI writes: Recently, there have been reports indicating that the Syrian Government will recognize Israel in exchange for parts of the Golan Heights.

Despite mentioning that the report might be untrue, the newspaper warns the Syrian statesmen that, although the Zionists come bearing an olive branch, they are sharpening their daggers behind the scene.

In conclusion, the daily writes: The Syrian Government has so far adopted praiseworthy stances regarding the Palestine issue. It would do well if, from now on, Syria did not think of anything else but the struggle until the annihilation of the Zionist regime by relying on the intifadah.

Fars Province Production Problems Reported

95LA0226A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 23 Apr 95 p 9

[Report on interviews with managers of industrial units of Fars Province by unidentified economic correspondent; places and dates not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Economic Affairs Division—The shortage of needed raw materials, lack of facilitating the import of raw materials, foreign currency problems, frequent changes in customs and banking policies, the prohibition against cash purchases, the failure to pay foreign debts on time by the Central Bank, and the existing problems with regard to the export of industrial goods were among the problems and shortcomings in production activities discussed by the managers of industrial units of Fars Province in an interview with the economic correspondent of RESALAT.

Seyyed Adiboddin Sadrnezhad, general manager of Narges-e Shiraz Vegetable Oil Company, referring to the existing problems concerning the opening of foreign currency credit for the procurement of raw material from abroad, said: In 1372 [Iranian year 21 March 1993-20 March 1994], due to foreign currency problems created in the first half of the year, we were unable to maintain the production projected in the plan, which was 130,000 tons of vegetable oil, and the total production of the factory last year was 110,500 tons of vegetable oil.

In response to this question, "Was the problem of procuring raw materials eliminated in 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995]?" the general manager of the Narges-e Shiraz Vegetable Oil Company said: The planned vegetable oil production in 1373 was certainly less than in 1372; that is, 130,000 tons were not projected. Due to the problems regarding the opening of credit and the shortage of imported unprocessed oil, however, the production of this factory in 1373 was not more than 80,000 tons. Stating that "in procuring unprocessed oil from abroad, we have problems with both the Ministry of Commerce and the Central Bank," he added: With the credit that was opened in Esfand 1372 [20 February-20 March 1994], the oil was received in Shahrivar 1373 [23 August-22 September 1994], or for the import of 10,000 tons of unprocessed oil at a value of $7 million, for which credit was opened in Mehr and Aban 1373 [23 September-22 October and 23 October-22 November 1994], after filling out a 200-page application, some correspondence, seeing Majles deputies and ministers, and constant follow-up with the officials of the country, only by early Dey 1373 [22 December 1994-20 January 1995] was the oil unloaded in Bandar-e 'Abbas, and this is while the money for this amount of unprocessed oil had not reached the foreign seller until it was unloaded in the port. It is interesting that this amount of oil is not even enough for a whole month. Hence, if we must suffer so much hardship for the needed raw material for one month of production every month, how can the industrial wheels of the country turn easily?

He believes that the problem that exists in the market now is mostly due to the shortage of goods because when an item is hard to find on the market, speculation starts.

He added: For example, during the imposed war, many items, such as tissue paper and shampoo, were rare on the market because consumers bought them and stored them at home. Today, since they are found in abundance on the market, no one wants to buy them in massive quantities and store them at home. On the other hand, there is a shortage of vegetable oil on the market, and anyone who finds it buys several tins and stores them at home. Hence, the only solution to the problem of shortages and high prices is to eliminate the problems in producing goods.

In another part of this interview, referring to the shortage of electricity and natural gas, the general manager of Narges-e Shiraz Vegetable Oil Factory said: In 1373, the severance in the supply of natural gas caused a decrease in production of nearly 30 percent in the factory in a month.

Regarding another problem for this factory that has existed for some time, he added: Since 1372, the Water and Sewage Company of Fars Province has for no rational reason closed the waste disposal channel of this company, and the company has been forced to move its waste in tanker trucks outside the city. For this reason, the trucks that should be carrying raw materials for this factory from the ports have to carry the company waste.

Stating that "Narges-e Shiraz Vegetable Oil Factory is capable of producing 20 percent of the needs of the country if its raw materials are provided," he added: With the planning that has been done, in the past two years, the capacity for vegetable oil production of this factory has increased from 300 tons to 400 tons per day, and now too, if some of the problems are eliminated, it is possible to increase production up to 600 tons per day.

Engineer Hamid Reza Khorasandi, the production manager of the Fars Chemical Industries Factory, is the "first manufacturer of melamine molding powders, urea-formaldehyde, industrial glues, and formalin in Iran." He said: In 1372, this factory produced 34,00 tons of formalin, 24,000 tons of industrial glue, and 9,055 tons of molding powders. This level of production compared to five years ago shows an increase of 74, 77, and 68 percent in the various divisions, respectively.

Eng. Khorasandi stated that "at the present time, this factory produces five kinds of resin and also has the capability to produce other resins" and said: The resin manufacturing unit of this factory has been completely designed and built by the experts and specialists of the company and was put into operation in Ordibehesht 1373 [21 April-21 May 1994], with a capacity of 10,000 tons per year.

Pointing out that "most of the raw material in the production of formalin is liquid methanol," he said: Prior to the start of the Shiraz Petrochemical Factory, the liquid methanol used in this unit was imported, but now liquid methanol is produced by this factory on the basis of our determined share.

Stating that "currently the level of production of methanol is limited, and it is not possible to procure it from abroad," Eng. Khorasandi said: The formalin production unit of the Fars Chemical Industries Company stopped in Ordibehesht 1373 for three weeks due to the shortage of liquid methanol.

In response to the question, "For what reason is the Shiraz Petrochemical Complex restricted in delivering liquid methanol to the subsidiary units?" he said: The Shiraz Petrochemical Complex currently exports some of its liquid methanol product; for this reason it cannot fully meet the needs of the country regarding liquid methanol.

Pointing out that another imported raw material of this factory is melamine crystals, Eng. Khorasandi said: Soon, with the operation of the Melamine Crystal Production Factory in Urmia at a capacity of 3,000 tons per year, it will be possible to procure all the needs of the Fars Petrochemical Industries for this material, and this will stop the exit of $4 million in foreign currency from the country.

Also, Eng. Hasan Sahebolamri, the trade manager of Sina Chemical Industries Company (another production unit in Fars province), said: Now this company produces 100 tons of formalin per day, of which 80 percent is distributed in the domestic markets for the production of glue for pressed wood. Moreover, about 1,600 tons of hexamine [hexamethylenetetramine] unit annually.

Regarding the procurement of raw materials for this company, he added: The chief raw materials needed in this company are methanol and ammonia. At the present, limited supplies of these two items by the Shiraz Petrochemical Complex and limitations on procuring them from abroad has caused a decline in the production of this factory.

Stating that in the past three years about $850,000 worth of hexamine from this company has been exported, the trade manager of Sina Chemical Industries Company said: In 1372, due to customs problems, the exports of this company decreased significantly compared to prior years. He mentioned the design of the liquid formalin drying equipment, with a capacity of 10 tons per day, and the building of the second formalin unit, with a capacity of 100 tons per day, among the programs under way in this company and said: These two projects will be operational in 1374 [21 March 1995-20 March 1996].

Dr. Ebrahim Mas'ud, chairman of the board of directors and deputy general manager of Hafez Tile Factory, referring to the existing problems in the activities of the industrial units of the country, said: The high cost of industrial investments and the low rate of profit in industrial production (which is now less than the rate of profit in the services and trade sectors) has resulted in the disinclination to invest in the industries sector. Also lack of new investments in industries has resulted in the elimination of the old industries and industrial recession in the country.

He mentioned another of the most important problems of the industries sector as the frequent change in the import and export policies (customs) and added: The changes in the customs policies have made it difficult for the factories to be able to easily import their needed spare parts and raw materials and have them released. For example, about 20 months ago, this factory purchased a number of needed spare parts and machinery at a value of about $90,000 and after some time brought them to the customs. As soon as they arrived, a new policy for the release of spare parts and machinery of production units was announced, and this made us unable to release the machinery from customs.

Stating that "in the past year (1372-1373), the banking regulations of the country have changed about 80 times," Dr. Ebrahim Mas'ud said: This has caused the greatest harm to the production units and also the exports of the country.

He said: The Central Bank has currently restricted all foreign purchases to payment in the form of "usance." This is while, due to the failure to pay previous obligations by the Central Bank to foreign suppliers, they will not sell their goods in the form of "usance," and this has resulted in the production units not being able to purchase their needed raw materials and spare parts.

The deputy general manager of Hafez Tile Factory mentioned the tile production of this unit at 4.5 million square meters annually and added: This company has begun activities in the area of exporting tile and in 1373 had about $1 million in exports.

Eng. Akbar Ruzitalab, manager of Shiraz Asbestos Factory, pointed out that "sodium carbonate, which is the main raw material for this factory, is only produced by the Shiraz Petrochemical Complex in Iran" and said: Now the sodium carbonate share delivered to this unit by the Shiraz Petrochemical Complex has decreased compared to earlier, and this has resulted in a decrease in the level of production in this factory.

He added: Some units, without using sodium carbonate, merely on the basis of their share, receive this item from the Shiraz Petrochemical Complex and sell it at a higher price in the domestic markets.

He added: The imported raw materials needed by this factory are minerals such as barium carbonate and borax, which are not imported and comprise about 7 percent of the total production. Pointing out that "at the present time, due to the instability of the banking policies and the problems of opening document credit, it is impossible to procure the needed raw materials from abroad," Eng. Ruzitalab said: The Central Bank agrees to purchase raw material only through financing. In other words, we must pay cash to the Central Bank, but the bank pays it to the foreign party in installments, and this kind of transaction is not acceptable to the foreign suppliers.

The manager of the Shiraz Asbestos Factory mentioned the shortage of industrial information in the country as a major problem in this sector and said: Most of the production and industrial units in the country are uninformed about each other's capabilities.

Eng. Ruzitalab also mentioned the payment of the expenditures that must be paid to City Hall, the Office of the Governor General, and other organizations of the province as another problem.

*Hospitals, Accident Victims Face Judicial Dilemma

95LA0252B Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 15 May 95 p 7

[FBIS Translated Text] A quiet street, a half-dead body fallen into a corner; some of the people passing by murmur expressions of sorrow and continue on their way. A significant number of people also gather around him, wishing to do something. An automobile arrives. They ask the driver to take the injured person to the hospital; he drives away. A second and third automobile arrive. The people gather and say "call the emergency room," or "tell the police."

The automobile that hit the pedestrian has fled. Finally a driver agrees to take the injured person to the hospital. On the way he worries, "perhaps I will be caught in traffic, perhaps they will blame me, what can I do, no! The life of a human being is at risk. I will trust in God, come what may!" The automobile reaches the vicinity of the hospital, the injured person is taken on an emergency gurney to the operating room. On the way back the driver is stopped by hospital guards. "You are to be detained and your vehicle impounded." It must be learned who the driver is. The police arrive, the interrogation begins, and a file is created. "The automobile is now impounded."

Today one of society's problems is the matter of traffic injuries and the problems that arise when trying to render aid. With regard to aiding the victim of a traffic accident, few people have the courage to take the injured person to treatment centers because the treatment and the subsequent headaches at the hospitals and with the police authorities waste the time of the one rendering the aid.

If the judicial and police officials do not think of a solution to this problem, the spirit of rendering aid to the injured, which has roots in our country's social culture, will gradually fade, and the people, despite their humanitarian emotions and feelings, will refuse to help their own kind because of these very problems. Helping and aiding their own kind is not something the people wish to avoid. What the people wish to avoid, especially with regard to taking people injured in traffic accidents to treatment centers, is the problems that develop later.

'Ali Mohammadi was asked why people and drivers refuse to take an injured person to treatment centers. He said: The problem is what happens after taking the injured person to the hospital. When someone takes an injured person to the hospital in his own vehicle, the driver and the vehicle are both immediately detained. Instead of being encouraged, third parties are actually reprimanded, and this is the biggest reason why the people shy away from helping their own kind.

Ahmadi, a staff worker, said: When injured people are taken to the hospital, hospital officials order that the vehicle used by the driver to deliver the injured person be impounded. No matter how much we tell hospital officials that we helped the injured person to please God, they do not believe it. They do what they want to do, and this kind of approach is making the people lose confidence in helping injured people.

A taxi driver said: I had just come to Tehran and did not yet know about dealing with hospitals and the consequences of helping injured people. I saw an injured person by the street twisting with pain. I immediately asked my passengers to get out and took the injured man to a hospital. After taking him to the surgical ward, I was about to leave the hospital when the guards stopped me and kept me from leaving. After that a police agent arrived and began questioning me. I was tied up for three days over this until they found the person at fault.

Since then I haven't had the nerve to help an injured person and take him to the hospital, but I am truly ashamed of myself. Not only me, but all Iranians have the spirit of cooperation and helping their own kind. While many people are willing to accept the problem of wasting time, there are also people like me who cannot make a living if they have to waste several days whenever they help an injured person. Officials must think of a solution to this problem, so that this spirit of helping one's own kind not only will not decline, but will become stronger than ever.

What Hospital Officials Say

Kemal 'Alavi, director of the Azadi Hospital, said: When an injured person is brought to the hospital, we have no problem admitting and treating him. The major problem is the police and the subsequent investigation. In order for the hospital to be able to answer to the judicial and penal issues, it is required to detain the one bringing in the injured person and the vehicle and to inform the police. Seyyed Mohammad Hadi Musavi, director of Imam Khomeyni Hospital, said: Those injured in traffic accidents usually pursue the two dimensions of treatment and penalties.

We have the responsibility for treatment, which we pursue. Even if we feel that the injured person needs more treatment and we do not have those resources, after preliminary treatment we send him to another hospital. He added: In the penal dimension, the situation practically requires the hospitals to report the presence of injured persons to the police so that the hospital itself will not have penal and legal problems.

Dr. Reza Armin, chief of Azadi Hospital, discussed the harshness at the treatment centers. He said: All of the harshness at the hospitals is due to the need to answer to judicial authorities and the families of the injured persons. A third party may take an injured person to the hospital out of a humanitarian desire to help, but hospital officials are required to report this to the police and to detain the driver to determine who caused the accident. He added: The problem does not come from the hospital. We have the job of treatment and care, while penal issues must be dealt with by the appropriate officials.

A social expert said in this regard: The people in society must reach a level culturally that if they commit a violation they themselves are prepared to accept it. Human responsibility demands that if we commit a violation we pay the penalty, but if a driver committing a violation does not undertake to render aid himself, what should be done? This expert recommends: The best solution is for the injured person to be taken to the treatment center by an ambulance. The value of this is definite, because a third party does not get involved in penal issues and in rendering aid the necessary assistance is given by the best people so the injured person will not be hurt any further in transit.

Continuing, this expert adds: If one works quickly and it is easy to get in touch with an ambulance, there is no need for a third party to take the injured person to the hospital in his own vehicle and get caught up in judicial problems.

Dr. Armin proposed this solution: The people must be educated to awaken their individual and moral social conscience. If a driver runs over a pedestrian, he should put himself in that person's place, have a sense that a human being's life is in danger, and consider himself responsible for the injured person. These things cannot be achieved without public education and cultural work.

A taxi driver said with regard to this: If a driver runs over a pedestrian, conscience and humanity demand that the driver immediately take the injured person to the hospital. This aid from him will definitely keep him from being estranged from the merciful God, and likewise from the injured person's family. However, if a driver makes a mistake and does not take the injured person to the hospital, the laws and guidelines must be such that the way is open for others to render aid.

He added: Police and judicial officials must think of a solution to this problem.

*Economic Effects of Unregulated Exports Viewed

95LA0252E Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 16 May 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] Economic Affairs Division — Reports received from the first day of the Fifth Conference on National Monetary and Foreign Exchange Policy indicate that economic officials are considering a complete revision of export laws and are studying the destructive effects of unregulated exports on the nation's economy. The report that follows indicates that during the last year, despite the increase in the volume of exports, the nation's foreign exchange revenues from this sector were quite low, or at least that the sector was not at all coordinated with the government's goals. What follows is a report on the first day of the conference.

The government will not permit brokers and economic saboteurs to operate in the market.

Morteza Mohammad Khan, minister of economic and financial affairs, announced this yesterday at the Fifth Conference on National Monetary and Foreign Exchange Policy. He said: The government will stop the brokers and economic saboteurs and will not permit increased foreign exchange rates to have negative effects on the economy.

He said: By stabilizing the foreign exchange rate, the government will not permit the nation's economic situation to change.

He added: With the political and psychological atmosphere that the brokers and economic saboteurs create, they do not permit the government to deregulate the economy in all its dimensions.

Mohammad Khan said: The price of foreign exchange is now affecting all the indicators. The government intended to bring the foreign exchange earned from non-oil exports back into the country, but last year only 25 percent of it came back into the country.

He said: The foreign exchange situation is disrupting the pricing mechanism and is having negative effects on the Market Regulation Staff's programs, but the Council for the Discernment of Expediency's decision to give the government full discretion in these matters was made so mechanisms can be created to keep the fight against selling at high prices from being undermined.

He emphasized: These mechanisms will be announced soon.

He added: The policy focus in the nation's Second Five-Year Economic Development Plan is production for exports and continued growth in non-oil exports to a level where the value of non-oil exports will be at least 75 percent and even equal to oil export revenues.

He said: Since the beginning of the First Five-Year Plan, the value of non-oil exports increased from $1 billion to $5.5 billion per year.

Mohammad Khan said: In the granting of banking means, the banks are moving in a direction where they are allocating credits to sectors that need less foreign exchange and produce a quicker return.

IRNA's correspondent also reported that the next speaker at this conference was Dr. Mohsen Nurbakhsh, chief of the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran. During his speech he said: The government intends to bring all the foreign exchange earned from exports back into the country.

He added: By controlling the entry of smuggled goods into the country, not just 50 percent, but 100 percent of the foreign exchange earned from exports will come back into the country.

He discussed the proportionate growth of the real sector in the nation's economy in recent years. He said: In the monetary sector, in the last five years there has been annual growth of more than 25 percent in the volume of currency in circulation, and this missed the marks set in the Five-Year Plan (10 to 25 percent). In the years 1372 [21 March 1993 -20 March 1994] and 1373 [21 March 1994 - 20 March 1995] more than 50 percent of the growth in currency in circulation was in the government, since government activities caused increased currency in circulation and most of the assets belong to the government. If we do not take measures to deal with this problem at the root level, in view of the low rate of national savings, we will not be able to control inflation.

He mentioned the growth in inflationary pressures since the beginning of the current year [21 March 1995] and said: Last year about $12 to $13 billion in foreign exchange was allocated, which is much less than the years up to 1372.

He mentioned the foreign exchange policies adopted in recent years. He said: The fluctuations in decisionmaking ultimately led to the decision that was made last Bahman [21 January - 19 February]. Consumer demand led the government to permit foreign exchange to pass easily from the hands of the exporters to the hands of the importers. He said: In current conditions, when there are psychological problems in society, we are also caught in an unequal circulation of foreign exchange.

On the other hand, the lack of coordination between the time foreign exchange is collected and the time an order is registered has caused us to be faced constantly with increased foreign exchange rates. This is not acceptable and we are implementing controls on the procedure for obtaining foreign exchange for imports.

He discussed the nation's monetary policies this year. He said: In monetary policy, use is made of the authorized ceiling on credits to procure the currency in circulation for raw materials, to complete unfinished projects, and in the final stage of investment for new projects.

He said: The accounts on committed reserves must be monitored, and banking system credits must be prioritized. Since the beginning of the current year this account has not increased.

In conclusion he said: The banking system will determine the foreign exchange needs of importers, and when this system is implemented, we hope stability will be created in the foreign exchange system.

The next speaker at this conference was Hojjat ol-Eslam Mesbahi. He discussed the increase in the monetary base, the disproportionate amount of money compared to the growth in national product, the low profit on investments, and the failure to increase profits on deposits proportionate to the rate of inflation. He added: The consumption model in society has changed, and ostentation is evident among the common people and in the government sector.

He called for making the publication of money reasonable, the stabilization of economic policies, the encouragement of investment through increased profits on bank deposits, and stabilized wages and prices to break the psychological atmosphere prevailing in society.

Pakistan

Minister Comments on 'Discriminatory' U.S. Policy

BK2506100395 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 25 Jun 95 p 12

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Peshawar — Foreign Minister, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, has declared the American policy as discriminatory vis-a-vis Pakistan on the reborn issue of Missile Technology Control Regime [MTCR], saying: "It is an act of dual standard that she lifted the last year imposed sanctions of category II under MTCR from China but kept them up against Pakistan."

Talking to mediamen after inaugurating painting exhibition by the artists of NWFP [Northwest Frontier Province] at Nishtar Hall on Saturday [24 June], the Foreign Minister outrightly controverted American charges against Pakistan of importing missile technology in violation of MTCR and blamed Indian lobby for castigating US Congressmen to subject Pakistan to punitive action.

"Pakistan has never exceeded the international standard of missile technology and acted within its four corners," Asif Ahmad Ali said and maintained: "Whenever our issue came up for discussion before President Bill Clinton, US State Department or Congress, such baseless issues were raised by the enemy of Pakistan.

The Foreign Minister dwelt at length over the Kashmir question and Afghanistan problem and ruled out any possibility of war with India but said: "India will have to face the consequences of giving war threats to Pakistan."

He explained that the issue of MTCR was being aired by some miscreants at such a crucial stage when both the houses of US Congress were going to undertake the Pressler Amendment for discussion and to decide about its nullification or amendments in it.

However, he added, the Indian lobbyist have accelerated their smear propaganda through media to show and project Pakistan's image like that of Iran in the eye of American public. "All this has been done to stop US Congress from the nullification of Pressler Amendment," he said.

Referring to the issue of Kashmir, the Foreign Minister observed "there seems no imminent solution to the problem as India considers itself a mini-superpower of the region and wants a police role over the neighbouring countries."

He said that India instead of seeking political solution of the issues has chosen the path of military solution by deploying over 0.68 million troops there and was bent upon breaking the backs of freedom-fighters.

The Foreign Minister said that the growing influence of Russia and India was highly painful and deplorable for Pakistan as these two countries have perpetuated atrocities on Afghan nation during the last 14 years and never supported Pakistan's resolution on Afghan problem in the United Nations.

"It is also regrettable that now a handful of Afghan leaders are issuing [words indistinct] of these two countries and raising figures at Pakistan which has still given shelter to 1.4 million Afghans on its soil," he said and opined to take up the issue with Afghan government.

Sardar Asif made it clear that Pakistan has never opposed the entry of any Afghan leader to its soil rather extended invitation to Mas'ud, Golboddin Hekmatyar and others to come and sort out their differences. "Similarly, we could not deny entrance of former monarch, Zaher Shah, of his son-in-law Abdul Watt [name as published] to Pakistan," he added.

Responding to a question about the banning of Afghan transit trade, the Foreign Minister said that talks were underway between the two countries to find out a solution to this complicated problem. Yet to another query about the withdrawal of American Embassy staff from the turbulent city of Karachi, the Minister said though the government had provided enough security to the American staff but they were called back which was the right of US Government.

To a direct question as to who was running Pakistan's foreign policy either ISI [Inter Service Intelligence] or Foreign Office, he replied: "Let me clear it again that the Pakistan's foreign policy is being run by Foreign Minister with the consultation of the Prime Minister and there should be no ambiguity in mind."

Earlier, in his speech to the artists of NWFP, the Foreign Minister bitterly criticised the previous Martial Law regime for introducing its own brand of ideology of Pakistan and declaring the activities of art, music and culture un-Islamic.

He termed these creative activities and also quoted a number of past Muslim rulers saints who introduced and promoted various forms of music and arts in the Sub-continent as well as Middle East.

To a question as to how long the struggle of Kashmiri freedom- fighters would continue, he said: "I have met with the leaders of All Parties Hurriyat Conference. Their spirit and determination for fighting is unshakable. And that they would never bow to the repressive actions of Indian forces." The Foreign Minister suggested India to come on negotiating table to find out an amicable solution to the problem which has spoiled the relations between the two countries.

"This is mere wishful thinking of India that she while having a big force will succeed in crushing the freedom struggle," he said.

Sardar Asif categorically said: "Pakistan does not support any individual or faction in Afghanistan but wants to have cordial relations with all the Afghan forces and restoration of peace and tranquility."

Daily Assails U.S. Report on Missiles From China

BK2406144495 Islamabad THE NATION in English 24 Jun 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Motivated Propaganda"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] An article in The New York Times has resurrected the bogey of China having supplied M-11 missiles or their parts to Pakistan and Iran in contravention of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR). All three countries named in the report based on a CIA study have contradicted it as baseless. Such reports had surfaced earlier as well and the US was challenged to produce the evidence if it had any, with no result. The report admits that the question of sanctions being imposed as a result of the transfer of missiles and technology that may contravene the provisions of the MTCR is still an open question since the Americans themselves are still not sure that a contravention has actually taken place. Why then these inspired stories and threats? Would it not be in the fitness of things and diplomatic norms if the US did not circulate such reports before having any solid proof? The scope for misunderstanding and mischief in this motivated propaganda is enormous. In China's case relations with the US are at their lowest ebb since 1989 because of disputes over human rights, trade and the recent unofficial visit of the Taiwan President to the US. Iran has already had sanctions imposed on it by the US after allegations that it supports terrorism (i.e. opposes the one-sided Middle East peace process) and is pursuing a nuclear weapons programme (contradicted by no less than the IAEA). Pakistan has just wrung an admission of injustice from the Clinton administration and worn down hostility in the US Congress over the Pressler Amendment and the F-16s issue. These unsubstantiated allegations over missile transfers are bound to exacerbate differences between all three countries on the one hand and the US on the other.

The US' double standards are glaringly exposed in its molly- coddling India over the deployment of the Prithvi missile which directly threatens Pakistan's security. Is the US prepared to risk its interests in the huge Indian market to impose sanctions against New Delhi over its nuclear weapons and missile programmes? Such unabashed two-facedness has never restrained the US where its own interests are at stake, and if that means principles have to be thrown out the window, so much the worse for those principles. Pakistan has long experience of the discriminatory policies of the US under the country-specific Pressler Amendment and turning of a blind eye to India's growing military might and nuclear and missile capability while Pakistan is singled out for harsh treatment when its seeks to defend itself from the very real threat of an aggressive India on its borders. The ending of the cold war and the emergence of the US as the only superpower in a uni-polar world provided an opportunity to the US to assume the mantle of leadership based on a fair, just, equitable, moral and even-handed approach to the rest of the world. Unfortunately, American policy remains hostage to its own narrow vested interests. Pakistan must realistically assess its own vital interests and strive for closer cooperation with its old and close friends China and Iran in common defence against the US' manipulative and self-serving attitudes. Foreign Secretary Najmuddin Shekh's visit to Teheran provides the opportunity to begin such a process of drawing closer to Iran. This should be followed up by an approach to China and if possible a joint meeting between the three victims of US high-handedness.

Press Welcomes U.S. Senate Resolution on Kashmir

Radio Views 'World Attention'

BK2506090295 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 24 Jun 95

[Commentary by Mohammad Yamin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A resolution sponsored by both the political parties of the United States — the Republicans and the Democrats — has been moved in the United States upper house, the Senate, condemning the Indian brutalities in the occupied Jammu and Kashmir and urging both India and Pakistan to enter into negotiations along with the representatives of the Kashmiri people to resolve the dispute peacefully. The resolution was moved by the Republican senator, Jesse Helms, who is also the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and was supported by two Democrat party senators — Patrick Leahy and Harry Reid. It calls upon the U.S. Administration to facilitate settlement of the conflict. The Senate has unanimously referred the resolution to its Foreign Relations Committee for consideration. As the committee is headed by the prime mover of the resolution, Senator Helms, it is likely to be adopted unanimously without any major changes or even a debate, particularly as the views on the issue of plebiscite in the House converge.

Speaking on the resolution, Senator Jesse Helms emphasized that Kashmir could easily ignite a nuclear confrontation. He recalled that two wars had already been fought between the two countries over the dispute. Working in pursuance of the Simla accord since 1972 had not helped and it was time to admit its failure, Senator Helms stressed. Directly blaming the Indian occupation forces for abuses of human rights in Kashmir, Senator Helms recalled that the U.S. State Department report of 1994 listed extrajudicial executions, torture, and reprisal killings as common tactics used by the Indian troops and security agency personnel. He urged the senators not to ignore Kashmir, as it would come back and haunt all of them. Supporting the resolution, the Democratic senators — Leahy and Reid — spoke in the same vein.

The effective manner in which the U.S. Senate has responded to the resolution and the forthright manner in which Senator Helms has espoused the cause of Kashmir and the need for its negotiated settlement is proof enough that Kashmir is now receiving attention at the highest levels the world over. The bearing that this unresolved dispute has on regional stability and world peace is now being clearly understood by all peace loving nations.

The measure of success that Pakistan has achieved in brining into sharp focus of world attention the issue of Kashmir would not have been possible if Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto had not taken up the issue forcefully and convincingly during her recent visit to the United States. She not only brought the various aspects of the question and Pakistan's legitimate stand on it to the notice of the members of the U.S. Administration, including President Clinton, but also had extensive meetings with the U.S. congressmen, intellectuals, journalists, and other opinion makers individually as well as in group meetings. Her espousal of the Kashmir cause, as indeed her pointation of the futility of the Pressler law, have already started paying dividends and there was a realization on the part of the U.S. Administration to address themselves to these issues and redress the errors and distortions that had crept into their related perceptions.

Yet all said and done, a resolution of the Kashmir dispute is not possible unless and until India reverts to the position it had itself adopted in 1948;,the essence of which is that Kashmiri people should be allowed to exercise their right to self-determination through a UN-sponsored plebiscite to decide the future of Kashmir.

Daily Sees as 'Encouraging Development'

BK2606024295 Rawalpindi JANG in Urdu 25 Jun 95 p 10

[Editorial: "Resolution on Kashmir Issue Moved in U.S. Senate"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Three members of the upper house of the U.S. Congress i.e. the Senate have moved a resolution emphasizing a solution of the Kashmir issue through talks among India, Pakistan, and trusted representatives of the Kashmiris. The resolution strongly condemns the unrestricted use of force by India in occupied Kashmir but, at the same time it criticizes the freedom fighters, who, according to the resolution, are committing terrorism. The resolution has recognized the All Parties Hurriyat Conference as the representative organization of the Kashmiris. The Senate Chairman has sent this resolution to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, after which, following their approval, it will be moved in the Senate for a vote.

U.S. interest in the Kashmir issue is as old as the issue itself. In the 1950's, when U.S.-Pakistan relations were at their best and India under the leadership of Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru was promoting nonaligned movement and establishing close relations with the Soviet Union in the economic, military, and political fields, the United States was supporting all aspects of Pakistan's stand on the Kashmir issue. It not only considered Kashmir a disputed territory but also openly supported the holding of a plebiscite according to the UN resolutions. This U.S. policy continued till the end of John Foster Dulles' and President Eisenhower's administration. In early 1961, when President John F. Kennedy's came to power, the U.S. attitude started changing. There were two main reasons for this. First, President Kennedy was a great admirer of Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru and he started giving preference to a nonaligned India over against an ally, Pakistan. President Kennedy favored India a lot and during the border conflict between India and China in 1962, he provided military assistance to India very promptly. In fact, he wanted to make a "democratic" India a model of progress and development in comparison with socialist China. For this reason, he gradually started weakening the traditional U.S. stand on the Kashmir issue. Before the 1965 war between Pakistan and India, Pakistan had been very close to China, which the U.S. Government did not like; so, from our standpoint, it adopted a cool attitude toward the Kashmir issue. This situation continued for many years. The second reason for the United States' cool attitude towards the Kashmir issue was that for many reasons the issue had faded into the background. The Kashmiris were then unable to launch any campaign for their freedom, which they have now been engaged in since 1990, nor could Pakistan present this issue prominently at the international level. During General Zia's government, Pakistan had purposely adopted a policy of not giving any extraordinary importance to the Kashmir issue, so this issue became practically invisible to the world. That is why the United States not only stopped voicing its traditional stand on the issue but also why for many years it never even mentioned Kashir as a disputed territory. Only recently has the U.S. Government once again started considering Kashmir as a disputed territory; however, this time instead of calling for a plebiscite, it is saying that this issue should be settled according to the resolutions of the United Nations and the aspirations of the people of Kashmir. Compared with the stand taken by the United States in the recent past, this stance is much more encouraging. Like many other international parties, the United States has also protested against the atrocities of the Indian troops against the Kasmiris. In this context, the present resolution being moved in the U.S. Senate can be considered an encouraging development. The resolution has asked President Clinton and the U.S. Administration to try to bring Pakistan, India, and representatives of the Kashmiris to the negotiating table. It is to be hoped that this resolution will be passed by the U.S. Senate by a majority vote, which would be a great achievement for Pakistan and the Kashmiri people. We expect that after the passage of the resolution, the U.S. Government will use its influence to arrange talks on the Kashmir issue and will try to press India to agree to hold meaningful talks with Pakistan and the Kashmiris. If the U.S. Government works for this objective seriously and sincerely, and obtains the support of its allies and friends in the West, then it would not be impossible for it to help arrange meaningful talks on Kashmir. The United States claims to be a great champion of peace and human rights in the world, so its own claim obliges it to take a serious interest in getting the Kashmir issue solved.

Leghari Views 'Threat' of India's Missile Program

BK2406134995 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 24 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari has said India's missile program is a tension multiplier in the region which is compelling other nations, including Pakistan, to keep their options open.

The president was talking to newsmen after inaugurating the 20th International Nathiagali Summer College at (Burband) today. The president said India has embarked upon a missile program which includes development of Prithvi, Agni, and intercontinental ballistic missiles which are a threat to the region. The range of these missiles, he said, extends to countries like Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and China.

Keeping in view these threats, which could trigger a missile race in the region, the president said Pakistan has put forward various situations to the United States, including the introduction of the zero missile regime in the region. Unfortunately, India has paid no heed to such suggestions. President Leghari said he advanced various proposals to the Indian leadership aimed at reduction of tension during his recent visit to India on the eve of the SAARC [South Asian Association For Regional Cooperation] summit. The proposals were different and included confidence building measures, including bilateral or multilateral monitoring of each other's nuclear facilities. India's ambitious missile program is creating problems for other countries, the president added.

Arrested MQM 'Terrorist' Details Indian Ties

BK2506163395 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 25 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A terrorist of the Altaf Group [of the Muhajir Qaumi Movement, or MQM], Mohammad Taqi, wanted in 16 murder cases in Karachi, confessed his crimes before newsmen in Islamabad this evening. The terrorist, who operated under different nicknames, confessed to the murder of a number of people in Karachi by him and his accomplices. He said the killings were carried out on the orders of the high command of Altaf Group.

Mohammad Taqi, who has also served as a guard with Dr. Farooq Sattar, said he had fled to India after committing a number of murders and got the visa from the Indian Consulate in Karachi within an hour on a recommendatory letter from Dr. Farooq Sattar addressed to Mr. Tripathi. He went to New Delhi, Rampur, and Bombay during his stay in India, where he met a number of other MQM activists.

Radio Reports on Continued Karachi Violence

BK2506162895 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 25 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Sindh Assembly was told today that Qamar Mansur, a Muhajir Qaumi Movement-Altaf Group [MQM-A] member of the provincial assembly from North Karachi constituency, has been arrested by the Federal Investigation Agency under the Explosives Act.

Karachi remained disturbed for a second day today as the result of a strike called by the MQM-A. Business centers, shops, and markets were almost all closed and public transportation was off the streets. Private cars, motorcycles, and rickshaws were seen plying in some areas of the city.

The commissioner of Karachi Division told reporters this afternoon that 15 people were killed and 13 injured as a result of shootings by troublemakers in various parts of the city. Nine vehicles were also burned by the troublemakers. One terrorist was killed in an encounter with police in the Al-Falah police station area. His accomplice was arrested. Police recovered two Kalashnikov rifles, one pistol, and 36 rounds from them. The deputy inspector general of police for Karachi, present on the occasion, said the suspect belongs to the MQM-A and that initial interrogations have revealed the group's involvement in nine murders, including the murder of two police constables, a Sindh Reserve Police constable and a Rangers constable.

The Sindh Government today offered to let the family of Farzana Sultan [alleged rape victim] nominate any qualified doctor in Pakistan or abroad to give a second opinion if the medical report of Dr. Aisha is unacceptable to them. In her report on the medical examination of Farzana Sultan, Dr. Aisha, an assistant professor of gynecology at the Civil Hospital in Karachi, said she found no sign of the alleged violence by a group of people on Farzana Sultan's body.

A strike was also observed in Hyderabad today. A young girl was killed as a result of shooting by terrorists. Some markets were closed and traffic was thin.

[Hong Kong AFP in English at 1559 GMT on 25 June adds: "Four people, including a woman and her teen-aged son, were killed when a rocket propelled grenade (RPG) smashed into their home late Sunday [25 June] bringing the day's toll in this violence hit city to 19, officials said. The unrest in Karachi, Pakistan's commercial hub, has now claimed 56 lives in the past three days."

[AFP adds: "The RPG attack in the central district of Liaquatabad was probably aimed at a nearby police station and hit the house by accident, officials said. This is the first time that people have been killed in an RPG attack, even though they have been used with increasing frequency over the past three months. Four other family members were also injured in the attack. RPGs also landed on the Liaquatabad police station where the car of a police official was damaged and one policeman injured."

[In a separate report at 1118 GMT, AFP reports that a Pakistani military C-130 transport plane was hit by small arms fire over Karachi. The agency cites a

Pakistan Air Force spokesman as saying that the plane's tail section had seven bullet holes. 'The bullet holes, believed to have been caused by automatic weapons fire, were discovered after the plane had landed, the spokesman told AFP. 'We are not certain that the plane was the target,' the spokesman said. 'It could have been hit by stray bullets.'"]

Editorial Views Treatment in Police Stations

95AS0444A Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 18 May 95 p 3

[Editorial: "Police Stations or Torture Cells?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The standing committee established by the National Assembly to study incidence of violation of human rights in police stations all over the nation has expressed concern over the inhuman treatment of citizens in our police stations. The committee has made some recommendations to improve this situation. The Standing Committee has also noted that the police stations in Sarhad and Balochistan are a little better than those in Punjab and Sindh. It is an undeniable fact that police stations were established to protect the citizens from criminal elements. However, most of the time the police stations appear to be protecting criminals and making problems for innocent citizens. The situation is so bad that innocent people are afraid to visit police stations even when they need help. They only go there when they must and then regret it later. It is a common complaint that police stations do not register a First Information Report [FIR] in the first place. If they do, they require a bribe up front and harass the citizens in various ways. It is generally believed that crimes are committed under police protection in various areas. That is why the police do not act or register an FIR when a crime is reported. Incidents of torture in police lockups are also often reported in newspapers. This cannot be justified as legal at all. As noted by the Standing Committee, the situation in police stations in Sindh and Punjab is much worse than in Sarhad and Balochistan. We believe that the whole police system needs to be overhauled. However, since the police stations are the basic units in this system, it is imperative to improve the situation there. We think that if the government approved the recommendations made by this committee, the situation in police station can be improved. Otherwise, the day is not far when the people will demand that the department of police be abolished as they do not feel safe in its presence.

Daily Calls For Murderer's Extradition From U.S.

95AS0446A Karachi TAKBEER in Urdu 18 May 95 p 7

[Editorial: "Israeli Murderer of Pakistanis Should be Extradited to Pakistan"]

[FBIS Translated Text] DAWN published a news item submitted by its reporter stationed in New York on 5 May. According to this report an Israeli terrorist, Sheroon Tawal, was arrested in New York for killing two Pakistani taxi drivers last year. Only the New York DAILY NEWS published this news properly. THE NEW YORK TIMES, THE POST, and the television stations totally ignored this news. According to DAWN, a Pakistani driver in New York commented on this situation in these words, "If an Arab or a Muslim was involved in such a murder or terrorist act, the U.S. media would have raised hell and would have accused him of being involved in the World Trade Center and the Oklahoma bombings also. Every Muslim nation, especially Pakistan, would have been accused of terrorism and the U.S. politicians would be seen demanding imposition of further restrictions against these countries."

The content of this news indicates that the Pakistanis living in the United States are disappointed at the attitude of the U.S. media toward the arrest of an Israeli for murdering two Pakistani drivers. They believe that the Pakistanis and Muslims do not get fair justice in the United States. In this situation, it is hard to believe that this Israeli murderer will really be punished by any court in the United States. Pakistan has established the tradition of handing over Pakistani criminals involved in crimes in America to the United States for the last one year. The United States fears that these Pakistani will not get any punishment in Pakistani courts.

In the context of this practice, we would like to demand that the Pakistani government ask the U.S. government to extradite this Israeli murderer to Pakistan. When criminals are handed over to the United States, their citizenship is not questioned or considered. If the Pakistani government succeeds in receiving the custody of this Israeli murderer from the United States, we will believe that the United States has equal relations with Pakistan.

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